

BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER, 1937

No. 66

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THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

FOREWORD

■ Of all the bulletins that come to members in the course of the year, the bulletin that gives the reports of various members on the varieties that they have seen in the course of the year is often the most interesting. Thanks to the cooperation of members in various parts of the country, this issue has a diversity of report and naturally a diversity of opinion. It will be discovered that the opinions are not unanimous. This should be expected. The intelligent reader knows, of course, that all varieties do not perform equally well in all parts of the country so if you discover that some sort on which you have set your heart is not praised to your liking, do remember that the report may be quite correct for the time and place from which it was reported.

If you should discover that the part of the country in which you live is not represented in these reports, will you look through your own notes of this season's blooming and let us have your opinions for a later issue.

B. Y. MORRISON, *Secretary.*



Snowking

1937 IRIS NOTES

CHARLES AND AGNES WHITING

■ On to Nashville! Early in the morning of May 7th we left Chicago with our genial vice-president of the ninth region, Mr. David F. Hall, his charming wife and Dr. Franklin Cook, for the Iris Festival at Nashville. The lovely redbud and flowering dogwood greeted us as we journeyed southward and as we neared our destination the miles of iris planted highways reminded us that we were truly entering the Iris City of the World.

One of the first gardens we visited was that of Chancellor and Mrs. J. H. Kirkland, where we found a cordial welcome and beautifully planted grounds. A grand clump of Copper Lustre was a constant center of interest with its gleaming iridescence. Sheba, a gorgeous new beauty, is larger, richer and darker than Junaluska. Setting Sun is a glorious deep red of most unusual warmth and brilliance. Marvelous had been moved from the front of the garden so it would not block traffic, and still held court in its far corner. It reminds one of Marquita in its markings, but is of much deeper yellow with bright red lines seemingly painted on the falls. Padishah is a clear and lovely amber yellow, and Satan a huge, dark, insolent beauty. Dominion Rex is well named, the king of Dominions on well branched stalks from strong, sturdy plants. Algonquin, the newest of the copper blends is the most brilliant of them all, with a golden or brassy tone of copper which has wonderful carrying power.

Mrs. L. W. Kellogg, guest of the Kirklands', could hardly wait to show us the Chancellor's newest seedlings so on we went through rows and rows of fascinating copper blends, lovely tall whites and beautifully clear light yellows, till we came to a deep golden yellow that had just opened that morning. With a gasp I said, "Now that is what I think of when someone speaks of 'burnished gold'." Chancellor Kirkland, standing quietly at my elbow, answered, "I think you've named it." Shown a few days later at the Nashville show it was given an H. C. by the judges. The deeper golden tone on the fall is not a dull flush but looks smoothly rubbed on like a brilliant polish. Mt. Everest, a fine pure white of excellent form and branching, and Princess Pat, a deeper pink than Frieda Mohr, attracted our attention. A creamy seedling called "Helen's Sis-

ter," was particularly interesting because of the perfectly smooth unveined yellow haft. Smooth hafts and clear tones, as well as size, will be found in the best new irises if our standard of excellence is to keep on rising.

Mrs. Kirkland showed us her lovely personal garden, a beautifully designed small retreat where box and yew give restful privacy. Here she has some of her favorite irises, including a few she was afraid the Chancellor might not save, among them a beautiful soft blend called Ashes of Roses.

At the home of the hospitable Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Washington we met Mrs. Thomas Nesmith, some of whose seedlings and new named varieties are planted in the lovely Washington garden. Here we saw a fine clump of her Snow Plume, the pure color and full, ruffled form making it seem very well named indeed. Perhaps the most impressive thing in this garden was The Bishop, Mr. Washington's glorious deep violet-purple self of pure and intense coloring, fine form and great dignity of bearing. Sundust was excellent in color, form, substance and branching, while JEB Stuart held its own for deep, rich warmth. Many of the new varieties were not yet in bloom; we were especially sorry not to see Snow Goose and Dixie Moonlight. Among the new seedlings were several fine yellows and luscious blends, 37-1, tan gold with smooth and glowing finish, good height and substance; 37-2, a deep yellow with red overcast, and 37-10 a large creamy white. Among Mrs. Nesmith's seedlings we found a deep yellow showing seventeen buds on a stalk with five side branches, and 33-10, a smooth and lovely blend, a seedling of Mary Geddes.

Our visit to Dauntless Hill was a delightful experience. Winding up and up we found this enchanting retreat among the hills and old native cedars, with its lovely small garden and its marvelous view across the blue valley. It was like a story book. Mr. Clarence Connel, our gracious host, made us feel so welcome that we lingered long in its restful beauty. The iris garden is beautifully planted with many soft yellows to enhance the deeper colors. Here, unheralded, we found two gorgeous new seedlings that impressed us so strongly that a vivid memory endures. One is a deep rich blue self of clear pure color, full rounded form and altogether lovely bearing; the other almost its counterpart in form and carriage, but of warm, dark, glowing red. Each is so distinct in its color tones that

they make perfect companions. The blue one is named Bonsor, from an aniline dye, the other, awaiting a name is called "Red Bonsor." Grand irises these, large, well carried, and of rich, satisfying colors.

In the spacious and beautifully landscaped garden of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Williams we saw many fine varieties of iris effectively grown, and very promising seedlings. Jasmania was even lovelier than we had visualized from the description; large, well formed and clear in color, a very fine iris. Golden Hind, seen before on a rather short stalk, here grew thirty-four inches tall, well branched and very outstanding with its pure deep tone of buttercup yellow. The substance is excellent, the color deepens with age instead of fading. Happy Days, Lucrezia Bori and California Gold were all blooming grandly, proving that the best yellow is largely a matter of individual taste, there are so many good ones. Brunhilde seemed to be the finest dark blue iris in this garden, a rich pure self of intense coloring. Rosy Wings stood out with great distinction with its smooth but glowing tone of brownish rose and its magnificent poise. Many of the Williams originations are noteworthy because of clear pure color and lack of haft venation. Iris City is a deep red purple of solid coloring, a clump of which, planted by Chinook, his fine pure white, made a stunning garden picture. Belmont and Waverly, a fine pair of blues, are both very pure in color though of different tone and form. Kirkwood, a handsome, deep mahogany-red, is very rich in color and excellent in garden value; Brown Mahogany, which we had hoped to see, is late and was not in bloom. Several numbered seedlings were especially interesting: 311 A, a clear, deep pink toned blend; 316 B, a velvety wine-red bicolor with very black falls; and 324 B, a warm white smoothly brushed with yellow at the sides of the golden beard. Mr. Williams excused himself and hurried away about ten o'clock that morning and we learned that he had gone to do his daily radio broadcast. As "The Old Dirt Dobber," he has been answering garden questions every day for four years, and listening in, we learned how to use a new gadget for spraying that can be loaded with certain fungicide and insecticide cartridges and attached to a garden hose. How many vexing problems this would solve.

The Iris Show at Hotel Hermitage was beautifully staged and most enjoyable, and will no doubt be fully reported elsewhere. I

wish I could tell you more about the gracious entertainment given us by the friendly iris people of Nashville, but I was asked for iris notes not a dissertation on southern hospitality.

When we returned home we found the iris season just opening. Gentius, Cosette and Golden Bow made a beautiful early group, while the pogo-cyclus Balroudour and Stormy Dawn were covered with claw-shaped blooms as exotic as orchids. On the morning of May 31st, Mr. and Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Pattison arrived. After spending an hour or so in the garden we were joined by the Rickers of Sioux City, and all spent the day in the Sass gardens. Here we met the Schreiners and Hills who returned with us that evening. We visited the Hans Sass garden first and were delighted to find the lovely Prairie Sunset in bloom. We had seen it last year on its first bloom stalk and thought it the most beautiful color we had ever seen in an iris. Mr. Hans had named it then on its first blooming, something he had never done before. Perhaps he had been saving this name till an iris arrived that really possessed these enchanting colors. By Ridgway it is Onion-skin Pink, but by all that is beautiful it is truly the color of a prairie sunset with all its smoothly blended glowing tones. This is the climax of a series of blends with which Mr. Sass has been working for several years. Matula is a deeper, richer blend whose standards are Apricot Buff flushed Congo Pink, and whose falls are Indian Lake; in simpler language it is a brilliant medley of gold, apricot and red without a dull moment. More subdued in tone is the softly blended brown and mauve of Sandalwood with its satiny texture. It is not dull and lifeless like some of the brown-toned blends, but fresh and very lovely. Midwest Gem, a sister seedling of Matula, is a lighter more delicate blend of light pink and buff, and still daintier in color is 63-36, a soft, warm, creamy yellow with a faint flush of pink on the falls. A very lovely pure yellow of medium tone and excellent form and branching is 9-36.

A whole race of yellow plicatas is springing up at the Sass gardens. After working many years for a large flowering yellow plicata, now come Siegfried, Orloff, Tiffany and many new seedlings of varying types and colors. These have attracted wide attention and show one of the most complete color breaks of recent years. Siegfried is the best known, a large fine yellow with brown and purple markings; Orloff, a darker more blended type, and Tiffany, a clear



Missouri

deep yellow with maroon markings. All are large ruffled flowers on tall splendidly branched stems.

City of Lincoln is the largest and finest clear toned variegata we have ever seen. It blooms so profusely that stock of it is still very scarce. Ossar, a medium sized flower compared with the others, is the most vivid color in the garden; a deep glowing golden red that defies description. Among the light blues we find two outstanding beauties, Anitra, a pure Verbena Violet (Ridgway) self, and Miss Camelia, a clear placid tone of light blue that is very charming. It is interesting to know that these are both children of white parents, Anitra from Purissima x Oriana and Miss Camelia from Oriana x Wambliska.

At Mr. Jacob Sass' we found The Red Douglas in all its glory. The simple three line color description in the Sass catalog causes many smiles, for already pages have been written about it by its ardent admirers. Almost a true self of Raisin to Dahlia Purple (Ridgway), it is deep, rich, grand—a magnificent flower. Wherever it has bloomed it has gained a host of admirers for its excellent form and behavior as well as its rich glowing color. Casque d'Or, a child of El Tovar and Golden Helmet is a most striking and unusual flower. The standards are pure old gold, the falls a velvety deep maroon, almost black, margined with old gold. Its clear pure coloring is enhanced by olive gold on the reverse of the fall. Here we saw many fine yellow plicatas too, 35-18 being heavily marked with pink on light yellow, a handsome combination. Lovely smooth blends were much in evidence, 36-60 a clear creamy pink and yellow of excellent form and branching, 35-64 more gold and lavender with pure fresh coloring.

Dozens of fine whites under number vied with each other, of which 35-8 is perhaps the very purest, a cold white without any touch of blue. A very faint greenish midrib adds coolness and character to the bloom; the hafts are pure and unmarred. One of the most beautiful blooms in the garden was a deep rich blue-purple, darker and finer than The Black Douglas, its pollen parent. It is numbered 35-40 and we hope it will be introduced soon as it is outstanding in every way. A very pure blue of medium tone which Mr. Jake affectionately calls "Blue Wambly," is a chance seedling of Wambliska and is numbered 34-71. It is hard to choose the winners in the Sass gardens as the average is so high, and if they

listened to us all they would name dozens each year. They are wise enough to pick the best and leave the rest. Among the "Guest Irises" was a large, tall and very lovely light yellow self—Mr. Hall's Spring Prom. Cool and poised it stood like a beautiful young girl in her loveliest formal gown ready for the gayest of spring dances.

We had supper that evening in Council Bluffs at Mrs. Tinley's Play House in her hillside iris garden, and when we got back, rather late, Mr. Hall showed us the color slides he took at Nashville. They were excellent, and we are looking forward to getting our own set of over a hundred, taken later, mounted. Color photography is one of the most fascinating hobbies a gardener can have. Having tried both, we think the slides taken with kodachrome are more satisfactory for iris pictures than color movies. One can pose the close ups more carefully and keep them on the screen for study and discussion.

Next morning everyone was up bright and early and out in the garden where we found Mr. and Mrs. Grinter. They had written that they might not be able to come so we were happily surprised to see them, and happy, too, to be able to show them a beautiful stalk of Garden Magic. Blooming tall and well branched on a first year plant it made a stunning picture. It is a clear tone of brown-red with smooth unveined hafts and laquered finish. The form is excellent and the substance lasting as the one stalk furnished bloom for ten days. Marco Polo came in for much favorable comment, a brilliant bicolor with rich rose-red standards and velvety crimson falls, a gleaming iris of fine form and growing habits. Robert and Constance could well feel proud of it and of the lovely Golden Treasure which was another center of attraction. Thirty-eight inches tall on a first year plant showing excellent increase, it was the most perfect example of four way branching we have ever seen. Each of the four side branches extend in a different direction so that even when three huge blooms are open they are beautifully spaced. Naranja, blooming a bit short but on well branched stems was easily the deepest yellow in the garden, a rich golden yellow with a light flush of reddish brown on the falls which gives it an orange tone. Copper Piece showed a very brilliant and interesting color. The blooms are not large, but the color is most unusual and attractive, a coppery red with a definite violet suffusion. Exclu-

sive was most appealing in its soft powder blue, a very beautiful flower of unusual charm. Indian Hills, a large red-purple self of clear pure coloring showed excellent garden value. Apricot Glow, a beautifully finished flower of medium size and exquisite coloring attracted considerable attention. Its pastel tone of apricot pink is smooth and does not fade. Osceola, a clear light blue, a child of Souv. de Loetitia Michaud, is similar in color but perfectly hardy and very free blooming.

During the morning several other A. I. S. members came from Sioux City, Council Bluffs and near-by towns, and at noon we served lunch on the porch to twenty members representing all five states of the ninth region and Minnesota. It is hoped that through such informal gatherings we shall learn to know each other as well as our irises better.

Some fine new irises bloomed in our garden too late for many of the judges to see. Mata Hari is a charming, smoothly finished beauty, graceful in form and carriage, rich in its deep blue-purple coloring. Smolder, a clear red-purple, of more glowing color than the name might indicate, is equally fine in form and texture. Fiesta surpassed in color even our highest hopes, a gorgeous blend of yellow, copper and rose-purple sparkling with gold dust. Michelangelo proved to be a most interesting and unique color, dove grey, not dull but warm and opalescent. Snowking was grand again this year—truly a monarch among the whites, but much has been written about this incomparable beauty. The picture on page 2 was taken in our garden in 1936 and gives only a hint of its majesty as we did not wait till the flowers had unfolded to their full size and beautifully rounded form. The blooms are at their best on the second and third days, and often still fine on the fourth. It is universally accepted as the finest perfectly hardy white. Far West, warm and mellow in its sunset tints, proved true to its natural color picture, as did that grand blue, Missouri. Recent developments in color photography and printing have given wonderful results and opened up undreamed of possibilities, and the day of imagination in color plates is over. A fine clump of Missouri almost dominated the latter part of the season in our garden; a fine iris, well deserving of its wide popularity. The picture on page 7 shows its magnificent form and poise, but unfortunately not its color. May the time soon come when we can have natural color plates in our BULLETIN.

HYBRIDIZATIONS INVOLVING *IRIS VERSICOLOR*, *IRIS LAEVIGATA* AND NATIVE IRISES OF LOUISIANA

CLYDE CHANDLER AND A. B. STOUT

The New York Botanical Garden

■ The breeding of beardless irises at The New York Botanical Garden during the past nine years has involved several definite projects which may be summarized briefly as follows:

(1) The hybridization of the hardy northern species *Iris versicolor* and its near relative *Iris virginica* (a) with various types of Asiatic irises, especially *Iris laevigata*, and (b) with various types of southern irises of which 88 have been described by Small and Alexander (1931); and (2) selective breeding and also hybridization with various of the more attractive of the southern or Louisiana irises.

The main aim of these breeding efforts is to obtain hardy, somewhat new, and attractive types of value for garden culture. The work was begun in 1927 with a scholarship grant by The American Iris Society obtained largely through the interest of Mrs. Wheeler H. Peckham and Mr. John Wister and a similar grant was also given in 1928 and 1929. But since that time the work has been continued with the sole support of the New York Botanical Garden. Mrs. Peckham has continued an interest in the results and in the evaluation of the seedlings grown. Considerable data have now accumulated relative to the limitations and the results to be expected in the breeding which was undertaken and for these a report may now be made.

HYBRIDS BETWEEN *IRIS VERSICOLOR* AND *I. LAEVIGATA*

Of the various cross-pollinations made between plants of *Iris versicolor* and different Asiatic irises, hybrids have been obtained only when *I. laevigata* was a pollen parent. The plant of *I. laevigata* used was obtained from the Farr Nursery Co. and it had been growing in the New York Botanical Garden for some time. It closely conforms to the description of *Iris laevigata* given by Dykes (1913 and 1924). Sixteen seedlings were obtained which are without question hybrids of this parentage. A description with a photograph of a typical plant of this group has already been published

(Chandler, 1929) and photographs of the flowers are also here shown in figure 1. These plants are less robust than the parent plants of *I. versicolor*. In general character they are intermediate between the parent types. They have been fully hardy and vigorous in growth during 8 years of field culture and they have flowered rather profusely. Each year many pollinations have been made including selfing, intra-crossing, and crossing with various other irises. But thus far no seeds have been obtained to any hand pollinations with these plants either as seed or as pollen parents. Examination of the pollen reveals that from 35 per cent to 83 per cent of the pollen is aborted but that germination on artificial media may be as much as 10 per cent. It would seem, therefore, that further progeny of some sort should be possible. During the past two years a few seeds were obtained from these hybrids for flowers which were subject to chance open pollination. Seedlings now being grown from these seeds should flower in the near future. Recently, Reed (1936) has reported that he has obtained hybrids of *I. versicolor* x *I. laevigata* which are "completely sterile."

HYBRIDS OF IRIS VIRGINICA X I. LAEVIGATA

Eight F₁ hybrid seedlings have been grown from the cross *I. virginica* x *I. laevigata*. None of these seedlings has set seed to self-pollination or to any of the cross-pollinations which were made and no capsules were formed to open pollinations. Tests of the pollen of these plants reveal as much as 95 per cent abortion of the pollen grains and no germination has been obtained on artificial media. For one plant the anthers are much reduced in size and contain little or no pollen and in the other seedlings if any pollen is present it is usually caked and falls from the anthers in slivers. Compared with their parents these hybrids are intermediate in habit of growth. The form of the flowers is like *I. virginica* (fig. 2) but the color is the clear blue of the Japanese species. The crest is pale yellow interrupted by dark violet markings. The flowers of the various seedlings are very uniform varying only in the markings on the crest. Hybrids resulting from this same cross have also been reported recently by Reed (1936). He states that vegetatively these hybrids show increased vigor, that "The flowers are much larger than those of *I. virginica*, but smaller than those of *I. laevigata* and in general shape and position of parts resemble the

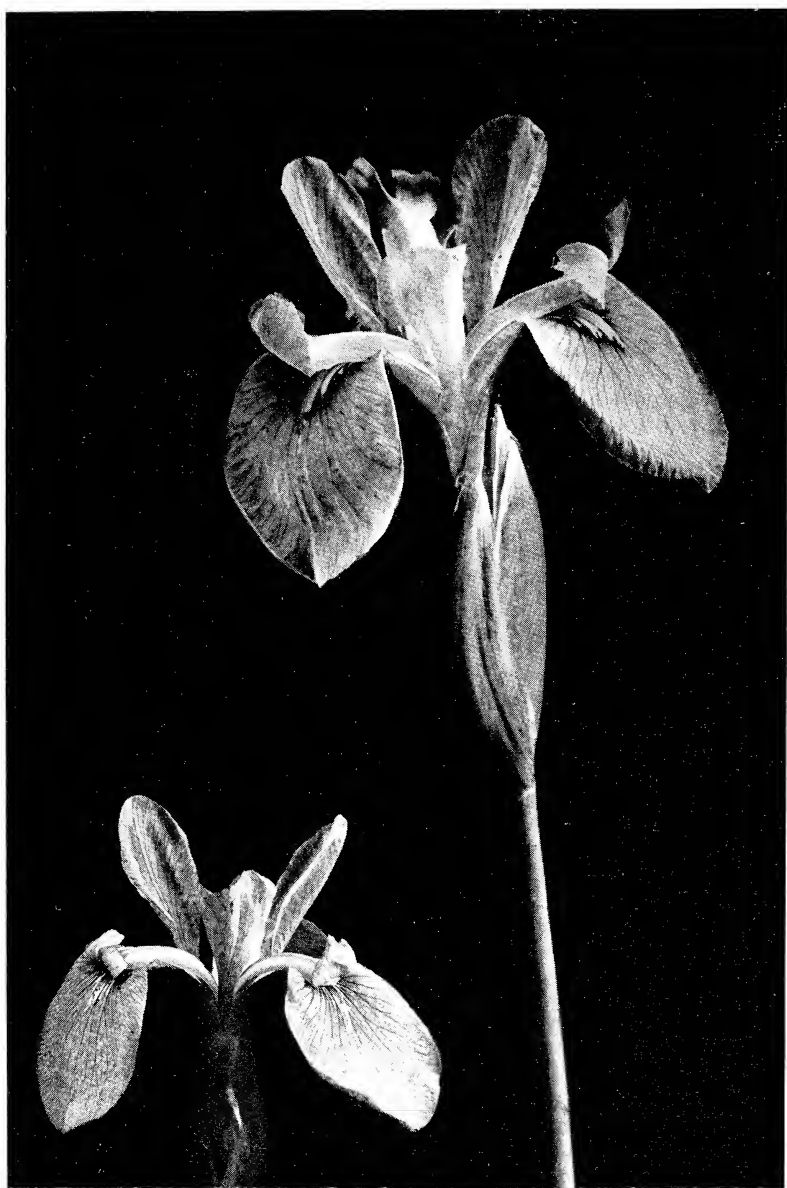


FIG. 1.—A typical flower of a seedling from the progeny obtained by crossing *Iris versicolor* \times *I. laevigata*. Natural size. The inset, somewhat smaller, shows somewhat different crest markings which is the most varying character of the sister seedlings.

latter," and that a few good seed have been obtained from these plants either to selfing or back-crossing.

Of the cross *Iris virginica* x *I. laevigata* var. *albopurpurea* three F₁ hybrids have thrived and flowered well. They are rather uniform in vegetative vigor and they resemble *I. virginica* more than the other parent. At the New York Botanical Garden the stock obtained of *I. laevigata albopurpurea* grows poorly and the plants are always light green in color and are very weak, producing few flowers. The hybrid seedlings have been growing in the field for 8 years and seem hardy. The falls are violet blue on the upper surface but show very definite white blotches on the under surface which may be the result of *I. laevigata albopurpurea* influence. The falls recurve as do those of the pollen parent. The flowers are about the size of those on plants of *I. virginica*. The crest is deep yellow surrounded by violet. These hybrids also have poor pollen, they are less vigorous and produce fewer flowers than the hybrids from the cross *I. virginica* x *I. laevigata* and the flower parts are thinner and are more blue-violet in color.

IRIS VERSICOLOR x I. FULVA

Special effort has been made to obtain hybrids between the two species *Iris versicolor* and *I. fulva*. In 1928 it was reported (Chandler and Stout) that capsules containing a few seed were obtained from the cross *I. versicolor* x *I. fulva*. The seed from these fully controlled pollinations were planted and eleven seedlings have been grown to maturity.

Nine of the plants obtained resemble the seed parent. All of these plants have been self-pollinated as fully as flowering permitted and six have produced capsules with seed but all the seedlings grown from the seeds resemble *I. versicolor* both in habit and in flower characters. The other three seedlings of this group have little or no good pollen and have produced no seeds. It appears that these nine seedlings are not hybrids, however, the three plants having poor pollen are being kept for further study.

Another seedling of the F₁ generation resembles the red variety *kermesina* of *I. versicolor*. This plant produces seed freely to self-pollinations and an F₂ generation is being grown from the seed obtained.

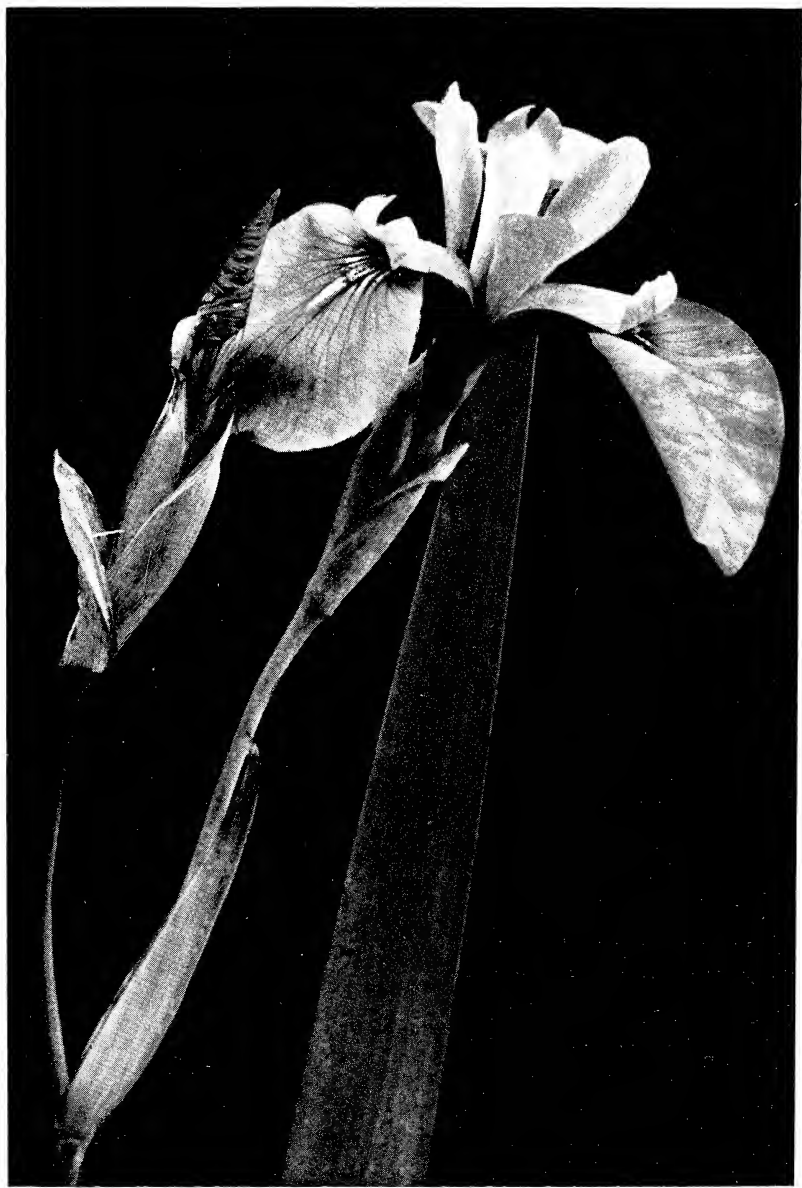


FIG. 2.—A seedling from the cross *Iris virginica* \times *I. laevigata*. The flowers are clear violet blue with a pale yellow crest interrupted by darker violet markings. Natural size.

One seedling has been obtained which is, without doubt, a hybrid between *I. versicolor* x *I. fulva*. The flowers are rose-colored with a distinct green crest on the falls. This seedling produces some seed to self-pollination from which another generation of seedlings is being grown.

FURTHER BREEDING WITH IRIS FULVA

“The shades of color through which the species *I. fulva* ranges seem endless. They are various shades of orange, salmon, copper, salmon-pink, salmon-red, crimson, and scarlet, many of them curiously streaked. A yellow flowered form furnishes the only true yellow among our native eastern irises” (Small and Alexander, 1931).

Various color forms of *I. fulva* have been used in the breeding. Unless otherwise mentioned the plants of *I. fulva* used to obtain the following results have fulvous or copper-colored flowers with no noticeable crest.

Certain plants of *Iris fulva* set seed to close-pollinations when the pollinations were made at the time the stigma was receptive. The flowers are somewhat protandrous and the breeding experiments indicate that there is a somewhat definite period of time when pollinations are most likely to be effective. Only thirteen seedlings have been grown from seed obtained by selfing plants of *I. fulva* and none of these have flowered. This small number of progeny is due to the limited number of flowers used for pollinations and the fact that the capsules obtained had few seeds.

Eleven plants of the cross *I. foliosa* x *I. fulva* are very uniform. They all have flowers of the Dorothea K. Williamson type but the flowers are smaller and the growth less vigorous. This coincides with the findings reported by Reed (1931) for this same cross.

The flowers of *Iris fulva* are decidedly protandrous and in making controlled cross-pollinations it is necessary to emasculate in the bud stage several days prior to the opening of flowers. It is possible that this treatment injures the style and stigma and thereby reduces the chances for the production of seed in cross-pollinations. Our experience seems to indicate that cross-pollinations involving this species are most likely to succeed when *Iris fulva* is the pollen parent.

The cross *I. fulva* x *I. albispirtus* gave six plants all of which closely resemble *I. ludoviciana*, which has dull red-violet falls with a light yellow crest deeply cleft apically by a dark purple vein, with the exception that the crest is not cleft but is smooth and straight. It is evident that *I. albispirtus*, although white in color, is carrying other color factors.

Attempts were made to combine fulvous color with flowers of larger size by crossing a dark fulvous type of *Iris fulva* with a large white-flowered plant of *I. giganteaerulea*. The flowers of the seedlings thus far obtained are of good size but are very thin and vary in color from light blue-violet to dark red-violet. The crest markings also vary from huge orange blotches to single inconspicuous orange lines.

Three seedlings from the cross *I. giganteaerulea* x *I. fulva* resemble the pollen parent in habit but have red violet flowers with a small yellow crest. Twenty-five other plants from this same cross are rather uniform in habit but the colors of their flowers vary from light violet to dark red-violet. The standards and falls are spreading and there is a single orange crest. For the most part these plants closely resemble *I. vinicolor*.

One plant whose flowers are darker red than any others of 2, *fulva* was crossed with another plant (No. 65652, plant not yet identified) with dark fulvous-red flowers. Eight of these seedlings which have flowered vary in color from pale fulvous to fairly good red types but none of these is better than some of the red types among the natural hybrids.

Two seedlings from the cross *I. fulva* x *I. vinicolor* have fulvous flowers. One of these seedlings has much violet in the style arms and strong veining on the falls. The seedling nearest to *I. fulva* in appearance was selfed, two seedlings being grown to the flowering stage. The flowers of one of these is more red than the parent while the other is more rosy. Sixteen seedlings were grown from the reciprocal cross (*Iris vinicolor* x *I. fulva*) and among them were the following flower colors: light mauve; green-crested fulvous; yellow-crested fulvous (similar to *I. subfulva*); violet with green midribs; rose; rose-mauve; wine; and dark red-violet (fig. 3). A second generation was grown from each of six of these plants and among these seedlings a still greater variation in color was obtained. One seedling has all the characters of *I. fumiflora*. One is pale



FIG. 3.—A group of hybrid seedlings resulting from the cross *Iris vinicolor* \times *I. fulva*. These seedlings are very uniform in habit but vary in flower color from light mauve, rose-mauve, fulvous, and wine to dark red-violet. A decided difference in the form and color of the crest markings is evident. Approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ natural size.

fulvous, another is pale creamy beige, and others vary in color from shades of fulva to rich violet. There was no increase in size of flowers and no marked change in vegetative habit over that of the parents.

A pale blue form of *I. giganteaerulea* was crossed with a yellow crested fulvous iris. The hybrids obtained have a good habit and their flowers are full. The flower color varies from lilac-mauve and rosy-mauve to smoky red-violet. All have prominent orange crests, much yellow on the ventral side of falls, and mostly yellow on the tan style arms. The color and unusual markings in these flowers place them among the most outstanding of the hybrids.

Viosca (1935), in his taxonomic and ecological interpretation of the iris of southeastern Louisiana, discusses what he considers to be natural hybrids between *I. fulva* \times *I. giganteaerulea* and states that there are forms such as *I. vinicolor* and other red-purple types growing in the zone of contact between the ranges of *I. fulva* and

I. giganteaerulea. Viosca believes that there are only four species among the southern iris. He considers *I. virginica*, *I. foliosa*, *I. fulva*, and *I. giganteaerulea* good species and all other types native of the southeast as natural hybrids. Experimental tests adequate to determine whether the various so-called species breed true to selfing or intra-breeding have not been made by us.

Six plants from *I. fulva* x *I. fulva* closely resemble the horticultural clone Dorothea K. Williamson (reported to be a hybrid from the cross *I. fulva* x *I. foliosa* obtained by Mr. E. B. Williamson) in habit but are less robust. The flowers are flat and somewhat like those of Dorothea K. Williamson but they are smaller and rosy in color. All seedlings exhibit characters which are typical of both parents.

Nineteen seedlings obtained from Dorothea K. Williamson x *I. fulva* have small flowers varying in color from rose to fulvous and violet mauve. Most of the flowers are thin, hence not good garden types. The habit is decidedly different from that of *I. foliosa* and more like that of *I. fulva*. The best one of these seedlings was selfed. Its progeny is also small-flowered but one seedling is outstanding in that the flowers are very small and rosy. The habit of growth is that of Dorothea K. Williamson.

Sixteen seedlings from Dorothea K. Williamson x *I. fulva* have been grown. All have flowers that are smaller than those of Dorothea K. Williamson. Most of the flowers are of pink or rosy mauve shades but have rather thin perianth segments. Flowers of two of these seedlings are shown in figure 4.

Seedlings resulting from the white-flowered *I. elephantina* x *I. fulva* all have flowers with rich red-violet falls, yellow claws, orange crests, and spreading perianth. These seedlings are hence quite uniform and distinctly different from either of the two parents.

THE YELLOW FORM OF IRIS FULVA

Sixteen seed from a capsule obtained by selfing the yellow form of *I. fulva* were brought to the New York Botanical Garden by Professor R. A. Harper. Five seedlings were grown to maturity all of which are true yellow *I. fulva*. Evidently this form breeds true to selfing. These plants are being selfed and crossed for further generations.

Hybrids obtained by crossing an unnamed iris which has dark violet flowers with the yellow *I. fulva* have violet flowers with a gray cast. The ventral side of the falls is decidedly yellow. Style arms are mostly yellow. These hybrids are strikingly similar to those of *I. elephantina* x yellow *I. fulva*.

Iris elephantina was crossed with the yellow type of *I. fulva*. Fifty seedlings have been grown from this cross. They are a very uniform lot having red violet to purple falls with much yellow on their under surface. The claws are yellow and the style arms are cream with violet markings on the wings and the appendages. The size and shape of the falls vary somewhat. The plants of this parentage which have the largest and fullest flowers have been selected for further use in breeding.

From the above data it may be noted that *I. elephantina* when crossed with the yellow form of *I. fulva* gives seedlings with flowers having a rich red-violet color which is not seen in either of the parents. *I. elephantina* may be considered an albino. It would appear that both carry complementary factors for darker color.

OTHER BREEDING WITH IRIS ELEPHANTINA

Iris elephantina was selected for hybridizing because of its pale coloring and its erect and rigid habit of growth. As described by Small (1931) *I. elephantina* has falls and standards which are ochroleucous in the center and fading to white at the margins. The claws are greenish. The crest is lemon yellow, extending half way down the fall, accompanied by lateral veins of yellowish green which radiate out into the falls. The style arms are mostly white. The pollen from this plant gives about 50 per cent germination on the artificial media previously used in similar tests (Chandler and Stout 1928).

I. elephantina when selfed sets seeds abundantly. Eleven seedlings have been grown to maturity and all plants have flowers typical of *I. elephantina* and thus it appears that plants of this species breed true to type when selfed.

Since good white and clear pink irises are in the minority among the southern irises special attempts were made to cross plants having light-colored flowers. *I. elephantina* was crossed with *I. gigantea* (white form with faint traces of blue). All seedlings resulting from this cross have the *I. gigantea* type of flowers

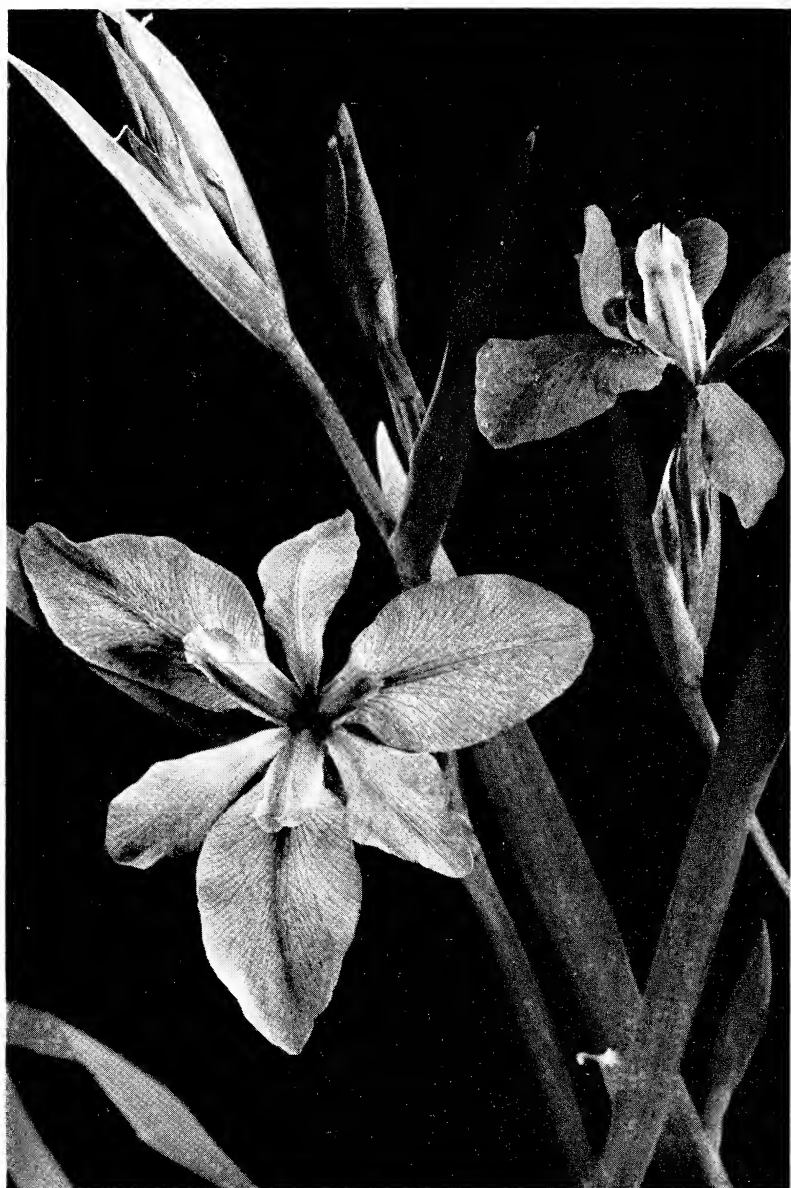


FIG. 4.—Showing a flower of two hybrids obtained by crossing *Iris Dorothea* *K. Williamson* \times *I. fulva*. One with light rose flowers which are full; the other with rich violet flowers, the form of which is not so desirable. $\frac{2}{3}$ natural size.

with the color varying from a medium dark blue to a dark blue-violet color (Fig. 5). The crest varies from pale green to bright orange. Thus all these seedlings have darker flowers than the parents.

Five seedlings have been obtained by crossing *I. elephantina* with a pale form of *I. giganteaerulea* (light blue). The flowers of these seedlings vary from a pale blue-violet to a rich red-violet color.

The seedlings resulting from the cross *I. elephantina* x *I. rosipurpurea* produce flowers varying from light violet to dark violet. Crests vary from yellow to green and are usually without laterals. *I. rosipurpurea* is a dull rose lilac in color, having darker veins of red-violet.

Four plants have been grown from a green crested fulvous iris (a *moriflora* relative) x *I. elephantina*. The flowers vary from rose mauve to violet mauve in color. All have thin flowers, and are hence poor garden types.

I. parvirosea (a dull rose-colored iris with a bright yellow crest) x *I. elephantina* gave progeny having violet or red violet flowers. Some seedlings have lighter colored flowers but all have the yellow crest. The size and shape of the falls and standards vary.

OTHER BREEDING INVOLVING *I. FOLIOSA* AS A PARENT

Seven seedlings having been obtained from the cross *I. foliosa* x *I. laevigata albopurpurea*. Only one has flowered. The flowering stalk is more erect than that of *I. foliosa* and the flowers are darker. These seedlings are being kept for further study.

Only two plants have been grown from the cross *I. fulvala* (*I. fulva* x *I. foliosa*) x *I. foliosa*. One seedling produced lilac flowers, while the other had violet flowers. Both showed the *I. foliosa* habit of growth and were discarded.

I. foliosa x *I. Dorothea* K. Williamson. One seedling is a typical *I. foliosa* while the other has darker flowers and an erect habit of growth.

Twenty seedlings were obtained from seed from *I. Dorothea* K. Williamson x *I. foliosa*. The vegetative habit (fig. 6) of most of these seedlings is not an improvement over *I. foliosa*. The flower color varies from dark violet, red-violet, and rosy to blue-violet. Only two of these seedlings have been kept for further study.



FIG. 5.—A flower from each of two seedlings resulting from the cross *Iris elephantina* \times *I. giganteaerulea*. The violet blue flowers are slightly below the tips of the foliage. $\frac{2}{3}$ natural size.

SOME MISCELLANEOUS BREEDING

Four plants from the cross, Dorothea K. Williamson x *I. albi-spiritus* (white) have the Dorothea K. Williamson type of branching. The flowers are more blue and have the texture of those of *giganticaerulea*. These promise to be good garden types.

Hybrids between two color forms of *I. giganticaerulea* having large size flowers have flowers intermediate in color but show no increase in size.

Plants having rosy or near pink flowers have been crossed with other rosy types. No clear pinks have appeared. All seedlings have lavender, lilac, rose, or red violet flowers. None of the flowers are any fuller than those of the parents and none of the plants show any improvement in habit of growth.

Approximately 200 other seedlings not herein reported have been grown from crosses between various unnamed individuals of the group of southern irises. These have flowers which show no improvement over some of the plants described by Small and Alexander (1931) and are certainly no better than many of the plants in their collections which have not yet been described.

THE APPLANATE TYPE OF FLOWER

The occurrence of seedlings with flowers in which the standards are similar to the falls is especially to be noted as what may be called a "break" toward the type of flat flower seen in various cultivated clones of the Japanese iris. This type of flower we propose to call the *applanate* type because of its flattened perianth. Figure 7 shows a typical flower of this type. The standards are broadly expanded and in coloring, position, and size are very similar to the falls. One of the seedlings obtained by crossing a fulvous colored iris (unidentified) x a pale form of *I. giganticaerulea* had only flowers of the applanate type.

A few of the sister seedlings from this cross are also interesting because of an irregular number of flower parts and because one or two of the standards resemble the falls. One seedling had only one flower of the applanate type while all other flowers had the regular number of standards and falls. Two seedlings had one flower each which had four falls, two standards and three style aims. In this case the individual flower had one sector which was

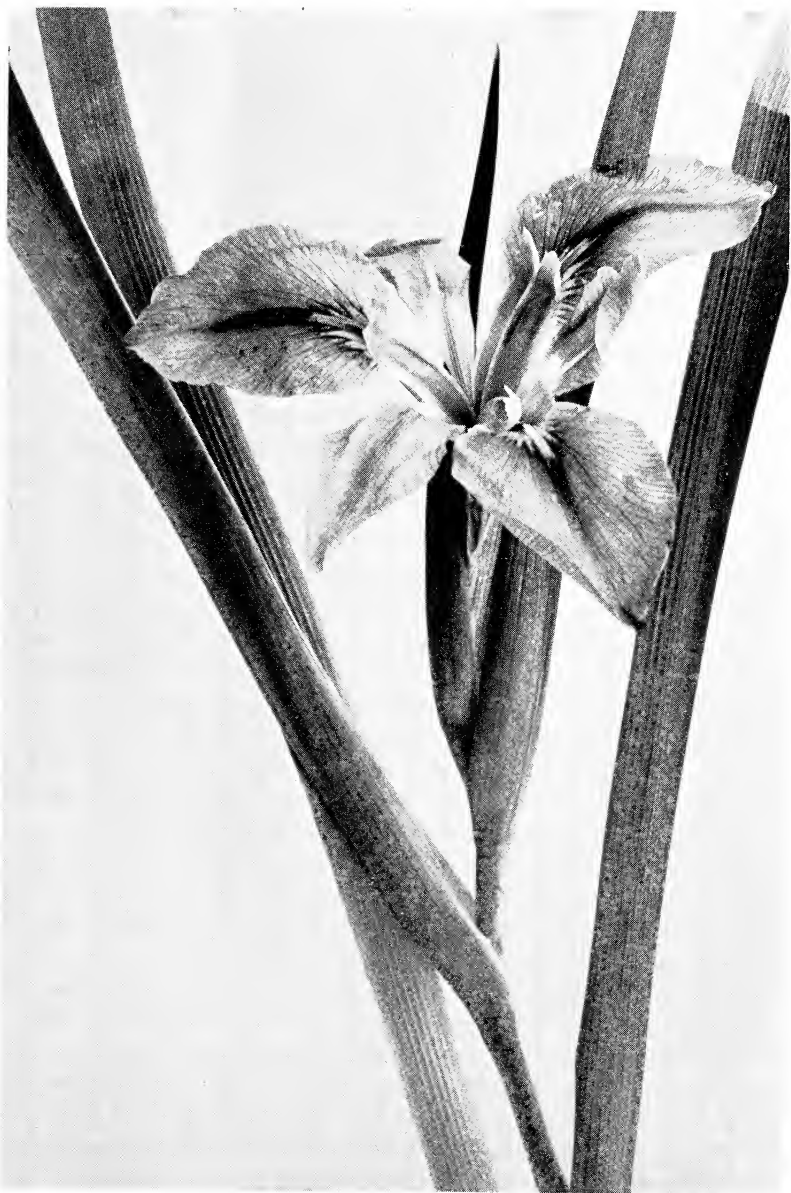


FIG. 6.—*Iris Dorothea* K. Williamson \times *I. foliosa*. The dark blue-violet flowers are darker than those of *I. foliosa* and the flowering stalk is more erect. Other seedlings range in color from dark blue violet to light rose violet.
 $\frac{2}{3}$ natural size.

of the applanate type while the rest of the plant was of the usual form.

The other nineteen seedlings of this progeny produced flowers which have the normal number of perianth segments.

Mr. Edward J. Alexander states to the authors that this type of flower has been seen in the wild in plants that would be classed as *I. giganteaerulea*, but such plants have not been seen by us and hence not used in any of our breeding. Mr. Alexander has helped in the identification of the species used in this breeding experiment and has assisted in the comparison of the hybrids thus obtained with the described species of southern iris.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Hybrids have been obtained by crossing *Iris versicolor* and *Iris virginica* as seed parents with the Japanese *Iris laevigata* and its variety *albopurpurea*. The hybrids obtained are fully hardy, and are ready for evaluation by iris growers.

2. Hybrids between *Iris versicolor* and *Iris fulva* are evidently possible for after many attempts one seedling which is without doubt such a hybrid has been obtained. Further breeding with such hybrids may, it would seem, give such recombination in offspring as the hardiness of *Iris versicolor* with the best flower colors of *Iris fulva*, which is one of the main objects of this breeding.

3. *Iris fulva* x *I. vinicolor* gives a first generation of seedlings which exhibit great variation with the flower colors including pale fulvous, pale cream beige, lilac-mauve, yellow crested fulvous (sub-fulvous), and green crested fulvous, rose, rose-mauve, wine colors, and dark red-violet. The F₁ hybrids are not uniform in appearance as is usually the case when two species are hybridized.

4. The two white-flowered irises, *I. elephantina* and *I. albispirtus*, when crossed with the ordinary type of *I. fulva* give hybrids that are rich red violet and violet mauve. This rather unexpected result suggests that these white-flowered forms possess some of the hereditary facts that are complementary in the formation of strong colors.

5. Among Louisiana irises various cross combinations, and especially those of *Iris fulva* x *I. albispirtus*, *I. vinicolor* x *I. fulva*, and *I. giganteaerulea* x *I. fulva*, give hybrids some of which resemble certain types described as species.



FIG. 7.—Flowering of what is here called the applanate type from a seedling of *Iris* 65733 (unnamed fulvous type) x white form *Iris* *giganticaerulea*. The standards are in the same plane and position as the falls and they have the same form and coloration. $\frac{2}{3}$ natural size.

6. Since the somewhat extensive hybridizations here briefly reported within the group of Louisiana Irises have resulted in no decidedly new types, except possibly the appanate flower character, it is suggested that further use of these irises in breeding for garden types will be most profitable along the following lines: (1) selective breeding for specific characters or combinations of characters, (2) hybridization with northern species which will contribute hardiness, and (3) hybridization with species not employed in the studies here reported.

7. The most outstanding "break" in the character of a progeny in the breeding here reported is the appearance of the appanate type of flower in which the standards resemble falls, a character seen in a group of the highly developed cultivated clones of Japanese irises. This character was not present in any of the plants used as parents. It is the plan to do further breeding with this type of flower.

8. Various of the seedlings which are most attractive for flower colors and for habits of growth are being tested as to garden values and for hardiness in the region about New York City.

December 22, 1936.

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IRIS VISITS OF 1937

DR. HENRY LEE GRANT

■ Ten days after the crest of Louisville's memorable flood Mrs. Grant and I drove to Macon, Georgia, stopping on the way at Mr. and Mrs. Clint McDade's at Chattanooga. This was about February 5th and a few dwarf irises in bloom, magnolias, prunes and many flowering shrubs, together with the daffodils, gave a real atmosphere of spring. The winter had been very mild and at that time the season was a month to six weeks early. The McDade place is beautifully landscaped and several acres are planted with horticultural treasures, so a visit at any time of the year is a distinct treat.

On the way home we stopped a short time with Mr. and Mrs. Sam Graham at Rome, Georgia. Again we saw Jean Siret and a few other dwarfs blooming. The tall bearded irises were in fine growth and planted in small, raised irregular beds surrounded by brick. We had enough of a preview of the 1937 season to know we wanted to return to Chattanooga and Rome during the real blooming season.

During the week prior to May 2nd there was much rain at Rome and almost every day some message by telegram or letter passed from Rome about the advisability of going down, but even after some weather warnings Frank Drake and I arrived at Rome by train about seven o'clock Sunday morning and were met by Mrs. Graham. By the time breakfast was over the rain had let up enough for us to go into the garden where the irises were in fine mid-season bloom.

We saw some very fine irises for the first time, and many of the others were better grown and of better color than we had seen them previously. Mr. Graham has several seedlings that are as good, or better, than any of the introduced Iris Aristocrats we saw in his garden. Café Au Lait, a bronze-gold self of fine substance, shape, branching, form and balance, was very outstanding. It was planted near Naranja which I had not seen before and, while not a rival, it compares very favorably with it. Naranja's standards were a fine orange gold, well domed and closed; the falls were not wide enough to balance the standards, and have some bronze-red markings, but

altogether it is a splendid iris of great garden value. He had eleven fans on a one-year plant, which indicates fine growth and increase away from its native climate.

Far North, another Graham seedling, was the best white in the garden. Tall, well branched, of unusually heavy substance, with closed standards and semi-horizontal falls; a stripe of luminous yellow along the edge of the haft about one-fourth inch wide, extending to the tip of the beard, lights the flower like a candle. Last year when it was blooming for the first time, I believe, Mrs. Bachman, of Atlanta, dubbed it "Leather Wings" as an indication of its substance. In checking his ratings while we were returning home Frank Drake determined to give Far North 100 per cent as he could not figure any discounts.

Deep South is a fine, pure deep yellow of Alta California form. P-B-I and AX-I are ashes of rose blends that are very good. Ethel Mitchel is a coral pink with very little blue, a gold beard, the stalk tall and well-branched.

Piute, one of Mrs. Pattison's 1937 introductions, showed here in fine form and color. It reminds one a bit of Ethel Peckham, has a nice gold beard and carries its color well across the garden. Planted beside it was Red Indian, a seedling of Clint McDade's, which showed up very well.

Rosy Wings was another outstanding iris, and Jean Cayeux was taller, darker and of better form and color than I have ever seen it.

Copper Lustre was tremendous in size with very wide standards and falls, carrying a generous sprinkling of gold dust. It showed much better than I had previously seen it but ten days later I saw it in the Chancellor's garden just as well grown.

A fairly large bed of Blue Velvet showed up well. It still has a place among the best of the newer varieties.

Mr. Graham is particularly interested in hybridizing for pink irises and he is getting some very attractive seedlings in pink tones but has not yet reached his standard although one bloomed after we were there that he believes is better than any we saw.

He had a very nice light blue iris in the seedling bed that rated very high. The California blues were showing off in all their glory. Other irises that attracted my attention were Attye Eugenia, Beowulf, Blue Monarch, Cheerio, Golden Flare, Golden Light, Gudrun, Happy Days, although the standards had fallen with the rain,

Jasmania, Lily Pons, Marco Polo, Mrs. J. L. Gibson, Natividad, Phébus Cayeux, Primat, Spokane, Sweet Alibi, Tarantella, W. R. Dykes and Venus de Milo.

The named varieties and selected seedlings were planted in small beds, with a background of shrubbery surrounding the whole planting. Here the irises were as well grown and displayed as I have ever seen them and the varieties mentioned were in splendid condition in spite of the heavy rains.

During the showers we enjoyed seeing the china, glass and furniture in the Graham's home which had been collected during several generations of the Graham and Berry families. Mrs. Graham is a sister of Miss Berry who established the well known Berry Schools, at Rome, and the Graham home place consists of fifty acres within sight of the main buildings of these schools, and is within the boundaries of 18,000 to 20,000 acres the school owns in that vicinity.

We left Rome on a bus that was scheduled to reach Chattanooga at 5:00 P. M., but it was late when we left and continued to be delayed so that we did not arrive at the McDade garden until it was almost too dark to tell anything about the irises. We saw enough to know that they, together with peonies, roses, azaleas, and rhododendrons, were in full bloom.

On May 11th Mrs. Grant and I went to Nashville. It was the day of the Iris Show and everyone was busy with it but we saw the Washington garden and the field in fine condition, the Kirkland's new garden at the height of its iris glory and the Williams' garden continuing the enhancement of its natural beauty through the efforts of its owners. Nashville had drawn iris visitors from many states that day and it was almost like an annual meeting. Many named varieties and seedlings were exhibited in splendid condition. Jean Cayeux won the top honors as the best stalk in the show with four well formed and well placed blooms. Burnished Gold, a new yellow seedling of Dr. Kirkland's showed up well, and Mrs. Nesmith's white, Snow Plume, was noteworthy. Mr. Williams was the leading point winner, so he won, and well deserved, the A. I. S. Silver Medal.

At the Washington home garden Mary Geddes was dressed up in all her glory and seems each year to show her best at home. The Bishop in his purple robes was remarkable as we saw a fine stalk

cut for the show. Gypsy Gold, White Goddess and Sundust were other introductions we saw of excellent color and form, but not grown at their best either due to weather or condition of soil. The Washington seedling patch was at its best when we saw it in late afternoon and there were some fine, well branched deep golden yellows, some very nice rosy reds, some good blends and several more superior whites. The Washington seedlings have fine substance and texture almost as a whole, due mostly to the fact that he has not used pallida or varieties of thin substance in any of his crosses.

Dr. Kirkland's new place of about five acres, already mostly planted to irises, has been well laid out to display them at their best. The Kirkland introductions have been planted in beds that have been made on a slope back of the house, which stretches down to the stream. There was only one clump of Copper Lustre, as Mr. Cooley has bought the stock, but it had several bloom stalks and was at its best. Setting Sun was very good in red tones. Barbara, Ruddy Red, Yucatan, Pink Glow, Algonquin, Padishah, At Dawning, Junaluska and Satan were among the finest of the introduced seedlings. Crossing a bridge over the stream, we reached the seedling field which is on another slope, surrounded by a thicket and having a few big forest trees intermingled. Here were the new seedlings and many older named varieties from different sources. Many of the best seedlings of this year's blooming had been cut for the show, but there remained several good yellows and one or two very interesting ones in red tones.

The Williams garden had Golden Hind, Far West, Jasmania and Brunhilde in splendid bloom and these seemed to be the stars although surrounded by a fine chorus including some very worth while Williams seedlings. Chinook, La Feria, Russet Gown, Waverly and Rose Quartz were among the Williams seedlings in bloom that day which were good.

Despite almost an afternoon of repeated hail storms when our irises were in mid-season bloom and some intense heat toward the end, our iris bloom in Louisville was very satisfactory. Among the new outstanding varieties were Narain, a fine deep blue, Attye Eugenia, a soft light yellow, Sir Launcelot, a very brilliant, almost red, and Deseret, a very brilliant variegata. Michelangelo, a mauve blend from Mr. Weed, attracted much attention. It is almost a self, of unusual color. Nishnabotna, a seedling from Mr. Snyder,

had purple blooms of tremendous size and of the texture and finish of fine silk. Café Au Lait was not so good as I saw it at Graham's, but still good enough. Shining Waters, Easter Morn, Alice Harding, Coralie, Sir Knight, Sandia, Doré, Golden Light, Happy Days, Eilah, Blue Monarch, Missouri, Jean Lafitte and California Gold were outstanding older varieties. Oriana, Pacific, Cheerio, Tint o' Tan, Golden Helmet, Sunmist, Creole Belle and Byzantium were others that deserve to be added to any list of fine irises. Exclusive and Indian Hills bloomed profusely almost throughout the season.

Crystal Beauty was a fine white in color but did not have enough substance this year. A big clump of Purissima bloomed for the first time in my garden and was a joy to behold for about two weeks. Marco Polo, Beowulf and Ella Winchester on one year plants all gave promise of being very fine when established.

My seedlings were coming into their best just at the time of the A. I. S. meeting and I had to forego the meeting in order to see them. Some were very good but as the fine reports come in of the du Pont gardens, Mr. Douglas' plantings and Mrs. Hires' place I regret I did not make the meeting this year. As some compensation Mrs. Grant and I went to Chicago for their show on June 5th. It was held in the Garfield Park Conservatory which was a show in itself. Two fine stalks of The Red Douglas were on exhibit as first prize winners in their class. Mr. Hall had a very excellent light blue seedling under number 36-21 and Dr. Wilhelm had a very fine copper-toned Zuni seedling on display. Later at Mr. Halls's we saw Orloff, a brown, purple and cream plicata of very unique appearance that impressed us as desirable. Midwest Gem was just opening in mauve and pink tones and Moonglo was display in a very fine clump. Ossar, Christabel, Claribel and a number of Hall seedlings looked very desirable.

Messrs. Hans and Jacob Sass were there and we all went to Freeport the next day to see Mrs. Pattison's garden and the Freeport show. Unfortunately we did not get to her garden until early afternoon and a cold forty mile an hour wind had viciously whipped the irises all day. Mr. Howard Glutzbeck had a fine golden yellow under number 142-2 on display that seemed as good, or better, than any yellow to date. Golden Treasure, Dymia, Narain, Snowking, Siegfried, The Red Douglas, Amenti, Jasmania, Mary Lee Donahue in bud, Golden Bow, Piute, were among the varieties still in such

condition as to appear very desirable additions to any garden. Wotan and Ella Winchester were fine; Garden Magic was not in bloom. We saw Morocco Rose, Our Lady of the Snows, Angelus, Red Sails, Christabel, Far West and other new varieties in bloom but not in condition to judge their real merit. All the breeders were particularly interested in Jubilestra due to the story that has passed around the past year that Mr. Grinter is of the opinion it is an iris x hemerocallis cross. None of us saw anything in its form to indicate such a parentage. It is a pure light yellow, apparently without haft markings and with beard of the same color.

At the Freeport show we saw a fine stalk of Shah Jehan and a good stalk of Chloris, the first Freeport introduction, which is a blend on the order of Jean Cayeux.

From reports heard from several sources Mr. Hans Sass has a fine second year seedling named Prairie Sunset. It was so magnificent the first year he decided to name it which is contrary to his usual custom of keeping a seedling under number at least until the second year. It will not be available until next year.

Through correspondence or through others I have heard good reports of Cortez, Ethiop Queen, Maya, Lighthouse, Janet Butler, Sunburst, Mme. Maurice Lassailly, Jelloway, Blue Peter, Blue Danube, Mr. Connell's Bonsor, City of Lincoln, Souvenir de F. Denis, Wabash, E. B. Williamson, Varese, Else Louise, Mountain Snow and Ormohr.

The Siberian Gateneau was one of the high spots of our garden bloom. It is a very large flower of an unusual shade of blue.

Now we plan for next year and, as always, we hope it may be the best yet.

IRIS IMPRESSIONS

CARL CARPENTER

■ Having been asked to write some of my impressions of the iris season by a member of the editorial committee, and wishing to cooperate to the best of my ability though I think I am not much of a scribe, only a flower lover particularly interested in irises, I said I would.

This has been an unusually good season in my own garden and in the other iris gardens I have visited. It was my privilege to see several varieties I had heard much about, and others that were unheralded proved to be agreeably surprising.

The highlight of my garden visiting was the garden of Dr. and Mrs. Henry Lee Grant, at Louisville, Kentucky. Their things are unusually well grown, the planting is compact so that it is easily seen and everything is labeled. As is always the case there were growing some new varieties that were not blooming but that creates a desire to see them another season. As I approached their gate and beheld the gorgeous mass of bloom it was breath-taking in its beauty. Unbelievably tall stalks, the blooms rearing their heads in mingled colors with yellow predominating.

Great masses of Alice Harding, with smaller clumps of Eilah, Happy Days, Sunmist, Doré, California Gold, Lady Paramount, W. R. Dykes, Attie Eugenia and others, all of which are worthy additions to any garden. From the fine yellows it was hard to pick favorites because they were all good. California Gold, the darkest in color, seemed to appeal to all the garden visitors, Alice Harding is certainly a reliable bloomer, with all qualities as good as any. Happy Days is very similar and seems to be just as good. Lady Paramount was brighter than I had expected after seeing the color plates. Eilah has a fine finish and height with form that is different, and should prove popular. Doré was agreeably surprising as I had seen it last year on a one-year plant with what I thought was a representative bloom and didn't care so much for it. This year it was large and fine and looked taller than the height claimed for it. Buoyant and airy with its bright yellow standards and falls of white. I promised myself right there that I would have Doré and now it is planted in my garden. W. R. Dykes performed to perfection and we all know that that is something.

Across the garden was a large tall beauty of unusual color that caught my eye. At once I wanted to know what it was and they told me it was Michelangelo. A visitor from Texas pronounced it the most outstanding bloom in the garden.

There were many others in the odd, rich colors that were very fine, one of the best being Summer Tan. It isn't tall but is large and has splendid substance, with unusually rich colors. Capri, also, appealed to me with its taffy-gold color and good substance, with large size though not tall. Tint o' Tan always makes me glad to see it with its beautifully blended tones. The patch of white in the center of the falls is very striking. Lux makes a brilliant display though it lacks clarity. Byzantium is similar in color to Tint o' Tan, but is not so bright. Golden Helmet, a study in brown, was most pleasing. The rich old gold standards were very clear and the darker falls made a good contrast. The whole flower was somewhat ruffled. It was not quite so large as I had expected but still it isn't small.

One that I kept going back to was War Eagle. At first it looked rather dull but there was something about it that appealed to me and the more I saw of it the better I liked it. Trail's End is another that makes a splendid garden color even if it is not a super iris. The iridescent K. V. Ayres is large and tall, with good substance, but is one to be seen at close range as the color, though pleasing, has very little carrying quality.

As a rule I do not care for variegatas but Deseret, with its beautiful clear colors, was delightful and I should like to have it on an established plant with several bloom spikes.

A good sized clump of Cheerio was a sight to behold and certainly gives a red tone to the garden. The coloring is very brilliant and its other qualities are in proportion. Burning Bronze is another red that showed up well. Darker than Cheerio, yet it is not somber. Coralie is a color gem in rose tones not to be overlooked because it isn't a super iris. Mary Geddes was there in as good condition as I have ever seen it.

Easter Morn was performing super plus and as it was blooming in the Grant garden could easily rate 100 per cent. Another white that I have been overlooking is Oriana. After one has seen it as I saw it there it will never again be overlooked. Gudrun is one of the largest whites and very fine but I do wish it had better branching.

There were many blues from the very light Gloriele, with its beautiful form and frosted substance that sparkles in the sunlight, to the rich darkness of Sir Knight. The blue that stole the day there, though, was Shining Waters and now that it is down in price no garden should be without it. Shining Waters is just about as near perfect as I have ever seen an iris. I was sorry that Dr. Grant's Exclusive, which is being introduced this year, was not in bloom for as I saw it last year it was every bit as good as Shining Waters, but of entirely different form and color. Missouri was there in all its beauty and what a beauty it is, with every good quality. One that I had read about but didn't pay particular attention to was Narain. When seen blooming it commands attention. The color is medium dark and very rich, with the other good qualities to go with it. Genevieve Serouge, with its beautiful blue and yellow tones, is very fine and shows up well with the newer ones. Sérénité, of similar coloring but different form, is very good though inclined to be washy on the falls.

Sandia, a pink and yellow, is distinctive and very pleasing. I had heard it referred to as a better Eros but it is not the color of Eros. It does have better form.

Dr. Grant's Indian Hills, which is also being introduced this year, is one that every garden needs. It has a rich claret purple color that is light enough to have great carrying power. The bloom was very large on extra tall spikes that were perfectly branched and the substance was excellent.

Gatineau, which is one of the most beautiful of the Siberians, was blooming in profusion. The clarity of its tones is marvelous.

I was very sorry to miss the good blooms on Café Au Lait, Southland, Lucrezia Bori, Ella Winchester, Jean Lafitte and some others as I was told they were most outstanding, especially those of Café Au Lait which had great brilliance and garden value. I had counted on seeing The Red Douglas and Mata Hari but they did not perform so have that to look forward to.

Mr. Sam Morton, of Owensboro, Kentucky, also has a splendid collection, which is planted in mass effect and simply bewilders one upon going up the steps into his garden. Blue Triumph, in a large planting, is most effective, and near it is Alice Harding with several bloom stalks that makes a picture. I had no idea Hermene and Magenta could be so beautiful as they were here in large

clumps. Purissima reared its perfect blooms over the whole garden and seemed to lord it over all. His planting is perfectly grown despite his absence in the east most of the time the past two years. Many favorites are there in large clumps and to see them is to want them. Pink Satin, always performing at its best; Missouri, with majestic beauty, together with Rameses, Easter Morn, President Pilkington, Dog Rose, San Diego, Shirvan, Indian Chief, Los Angeles and many another of like calibre make a fine showing. His Sacramento and Persian are both outstanding and have made many friends in his garden.

In my own garden the three that caused the most comment from the visitors were Junaluska, Indian Hills and California Gold. Eros also came in for its share of attention, as did William Mohr. After doing indifferently for several seasons and being moved a couple of times I seem to have found the right place for William Mohr, this being at the top of an incline back of the rock garden. It is planted deeper than any others and seems to like it. W. R. Dykes is planted in a similar location though not so deep, and flourishes without winter protection.

JEB Stuart, with its rich tones of red-brown, made a good impression. A good sized clump of Robert was very appealing and certainly deserves the good ratings it has received. It bloomed clear yellow this year, with fine leathery substance. Some seasons Robert has a slight flush of blue on the falls which is very attractive. Plurabelle is of rich color similar to the older Opaline but has much more brilliance and finer substance, and tall well branch spikes. Creole Belle is of unusually rich tones and the brown on the haft adds much to its brilliance. Jolly Roger is one of the most vivid bi-colors of ultramarine and azure, and is very rich in appearance. Mrs. J. L. Gibson, an almost black-blue, has a regal form and carriage, with fine velvety substance; certainly most outstanding. Brunhilde has had so many good things said about it I suppose it is not necessary for me to add to them. Jean Cayeux, on an established planting, deserves every bit of praise it has received. Last year on a one-year plant I wasn't so much impressed, but I changed my mind this year. Éclador is different from all the yellows I have mentioned as it has an airy grace that the others lack. The form is rounded, with the color equal to any; the height, branching and substance is most satisfactory. In other words—a

top-notch. Golden Light adds a brilliance to the garden that very few give. It is not large but what it lacks there it makes up for in floriferousness. The rich golden tones are most unusual. Golden Flare has heretofore been the most brilliant iris in my garden but its substance is not so good as that of the ruffled Golden Light. Junaluska was the first to bloom and was still blooming when the late ones came on, certainly one of the very finest.

Marquita, with creamy standards and rose flushed falls of leathery substance, was distinctive and beautiful. The only trouble was that some of the insects liked it, too, and devoured some of the blooms entirely before they were faded. Sunmist, a light yellow, is most desirable and is one that can be put in that difficult place. Évolution is a metallic blend that has a rich brilliance equaled by few. Shasta gives its large white blooms season after season in a way that makes it indispensable. Venus de Milo is not so dependable but when it blooms is a worth while sight. Dependability is one of Gudrun's traits, too. Los Angeles and San Francisco both perform well without protection. Los Angeles used to be my choice of the two but San Francisco is now not far behind.

I wish I had become acquainted with Legend earlier as it is certainly one of the most beautiful of the Dominions. Blue Monarch and Pacific are both good, dependable medium light blues that should be better known.

A good sized clump of Burning Bronze near a bronzed hemerocallis was very appealing.

For anyone who likes the Midgard form there is nothing prettier than Sea Dawn, a most profuse bloomer of old rose and yellow. Anne-Marie Cayeux, Shirvan, Black Wings and Rose Dominion are others of the older ones that I would not want to be without.

Among the intermediates I had a real treat in Red Orchid which is a most unusual and rich color in this type.

At Dawning is one to gladden the heart of any iris lover and is one of my favorites. I was disappointed that Ozone, Sierra Blue, Shah Jehan and some others failed to bloom as, having read so much about them, I hoped to add them to my list of favorites.

My garden does not have water so is at the mercy of the elements. Last summer was dry for many weeks, without any rain whatever, so as a consequence many varieties failed to bloom. Things like

Mary Geddes, Phébus Cayeux, Evelyn Benson, Blue Velvet and Easter Morn that are well established in large clumps did not put out a bloom stalk.

There are some among the newer things that I have not mentioned, but perhaps they do not need mentioning for soon they will not appear in the garden view as they will go the way of the discards.

1937 COMMENTS

VIRGINIA F. CLUTTON

■ Our iris season was late this year, and when the Memorial Day week-end began we had only three or four intermediate varieties in bloom. Indiana, with its somewhat earlier season, called and Saturday noon saw us on our way, my husband being good enough to devote his holiday to my iris interest.

Elkhart was the first stop, to visit Mr. Lapham's garden. Most of the space here is devoted to seedlings and it was a pleasure to find Red Sails, Frank Adams, Christabel, Retta, Jerry, Reuben and others in bloom. Christabel, I believe is my favorite of these; of the general coloring of Cheerio with standards somewhat lighter in color and a rich orange beard. It has good substance and is well branched and tall. Reuben was somewhat similar but with smaller blooms on lower stalks. Frank Adams, decidedly bi-color, with standards of a softened lemon yellow and crushed raspberry falls, stretched its tall stems to overlook all others. Its golden haft and orange beard brightened the flower; its form is pleasing and the branching and spacing both good; a very vigorous grower. Red Sails had bronzy gold standards and rich coppery red velvet falls, and glowed in the sunlight. Elkhart is darker than Christabel in both standards and falls, while Frank Adams is paler and rosier in color and more of a bi-color.

Mr. Lapham has a white seedling that I liked very much, creamy with yellow haft and beard, and a very beautiful form and extra good substance—but Mr. Lapham thinks color is the supreme quality of an iris, and just now he is especially interested in pinks and reds, so perhaps this lovely white will never be introduced—although I hope it will be.

Having enjoyed a most charming visit with Mr. Lapham, who so graciously gave us a part of this hot, hot Saturday afternoon, we turned "Sally's" nose toward Ft. Wayne and the garden of Mr. J. M. E. Riedel—the famous garden that once was Mr. Mead's. Mr. Riedel was most hospitable and so obvious was his love for his flowers, and his pride in them, that it was a pleasure to enjoy them with him. Best of all I liked one that he called—for the time—simply "Improved King Midas"—and it was just that. Mr. Riedel brought a stalk of King Midas to the fine clump of this new "King"

and the great difference and improvement in the latter was immediately apparent. Standards clearer and more golden, falls redder and more velvety and with the color solid to the edge, it was a much brighter and a slightly larger flower; taller, too, about 38 inches, and with good stem and branching. A lovely, rich and glowing flower. Not far away was a clump of Eros and one of Franklin B. Mead, the new plicata that the Longfield Iris Farm is introducing this year. With clear markings and delicately flushed standards—there are no brown haft markings—making it a very clean looking plicata, tall and of excellent substance.

Leaving the garden with the low rays of the sun shining through the many flower masses, enhancing every color and tone, we rolled along toward the hotel. Early next morning we paid a most delightful visit to Mr. Paul Cook and his charming garden on the outskirts of Bluffton. Let us hurry past purple Brunhilde, growing thriftily, dusty lavender-pink Sandia (a deeper Eros, perhaps, would describe it best) with a wide yellow haft and well branched stem, and a splendid clump of Varese (of which more later) and come upon the long lines of seedlings, and particularly Mr. Cook's new E. B. Williamson which drew forth the delighted exclamation, "Oh, what *is* it?" Smiling gently Mr. Cook mentioned its name, and he must have felt proud indeed of this lovely seedling. Of good size and lovely form, only slightly bi-color, and of a coppery red tone of medium depth of color it had a beautiful crystalline sparkle. Wrapping the fall gently over a finger a beautiful coppery undertone was noticeable. Four branches, the lowest starting 8 inches above the ground, gave a beautifully spaced stalk of bloom. Truly a worthy iris to bear the name it does.

C M 15-36 was a paler E. B. Williamson and became my second choice in the whole field of seedlings of every color. A most soft and delicate blend of pale coppery tone with pale maize haft and yellow beard. The edges of the standards are slightly deeper and the form lovely. On the way back we again passed Varese, tall and with well rounded flowers of a deeper Mary Elizabeth tone—reddish purple, a bi-color with good form and branching. The color "grows" on one and it was understandable that it, too, was considered as a candidate to bear the name of our late E. B. Williamson. The final choice was the wise one, however, I believe, for its color is unique as well as beautiful.

Nearby Varese stood Cimarron, of which it seemed an improvement. In this color range, too, is Mr. Cook's R-I-36, slightly redder and a bit smaller than Varese. S-I-35 has an intriguing color—maroon, almost a self, with blackish tones in the very velvety falls and a rich beard. Rather low growing. Amigo was there and a group of purples—St. Louis, the tallest, The Black Douglas, Black Warrior, a smoky plum, and Blackamoor with a nice form, and possibly the least dark. Maya, a rosy red brighter than Christabel and less bi-color, with considerable yellow about the center of the flower, stood tall and straight. The falls were somewhat strap-shaped. Claridad, powder-blue, of medium size but nice form, good branching and about 33 inches tall. Many others there were, well grown and flourishing. Garden and host, together, gave us a most delightful morning.

Then on again just a few miles, this time to the Williamson gardens in Bluffton where Miss Mary was a most charming guide. Here was Wabash, her large clear-colored amoena—by far the finest we have, in my opinion. The falls have a light edge, the blooms are well formed and the plant tall. Moonglo, that charming bronzed yellow blend, with its violet patch on the falls, was nearby, and a fine clump of Sandia and Varese. Monal, introduced last year, reminded me of Tiffany glass with its blended tan bronze and lavender coloring in most unusual combination. A large flower and tall stem. Here again, of course, was E. B. Williamson in all its beauty, and Amigo, that clear colored velvety neglecta with its light edging to the falls.

Oriana was the finest I'd ever seen it, 38 inches tall, large, with its wide parts, heavy substance and glistening texture. All white save for the delicate yellow reticulation on the haft and the pale beard, it had good form and the stalks was well branched. I liked it very much. Aline, a nice medium blue without markings; a self with nice form and orange-tipped beard, medium height. Shining Waters, ever lovely, was there and Sierra Blue with California Blue nearby. The latter, seldom seen hereabouts, was almost the same color as Sierra Blue—a bare tone deeper, perhaps, with wider haft, somewhat closer branching and a stem 6 inches taller. Golden Treasure was past its prime but I remembered the rich glowing blooms I had seen and raved about on the numbered seedling in Mr. Clint McDade's garden in Chattanooga two years ago. This creamy

yellow of Robert Schreiner's has a glowing heart of gold, very beautiful, and I know of no other just like it.

Crystal Beauty, very white, with its orange beard to set it off, has a nice form. Oriana was much larger and, as seen here, I preferred it—form, texture and substance were all better. Mussolini I saw here for the first time—a purple bi-color whose long falls drooped. The hafts were white with coarse reticulations of self color. Of medium height, here, and somewhat close branched, the blooms seemed to be lacking in substance. However, the day was very hot as the past several days had been, and many flowers that usually stand up crisply were looking a bit wilted. So a fair judgment could not be made, perhaps, in this instance.

The charming hospitality of Mrs. Williamson and Miss Mary included a tall glass of ice cold and most delicious lemonade, and a visit to their home garden where several of the varieties already mentioned were seen. Before leaving I would like to mention several of the varieties already mentioned were seen. Before leaving I would like to mention several of the small and dainty "Table irises" for which the Williamsons are well known. Titmouse, a pale yellow with brownish touches, and Kinglet considerably deeper and with horizontal falls; Peewee, a nicely formed white, also with horizontal falls, and Warbler, the perfect small yellow, with lovely form and proportions.

It being only about four o'clock we decided to go on to Van Wert, Ohio, to see Mr. Wassenberg's garden and since he had all of his choicest varieties in large cold frames near the house, they were seen with the minimum expenditure of time and effort—very happily so toward the close of this hot, energy-sapping day. Here again was Alice Harding (first seen at the Williamsons) of medium deep yellow, not the largest size but large enough, and with a lovely form; standards well arched and falls flaring widely, with darker reticulations on the haft, and orange beard toning the center of the flower. The stems were well and low branched—stalks in both nurseries having their lowest branches within 8 inches of the ground, and bearing nine buds and flowers to a stalk. It is tall and with blooms of good substance.

Prince Amba, another yellow, was taller and had brown reticulations on the haft and delicate brown veining in the falls; form pleasing and branching good. Wine Glory's coloring reminded me

of Seminole, though it was slightly more bi-color and probably somewhat lighter. I was disappointed in Pink Opal. The color seemed too lavender and the branching a bit close. It was tall but the substance was not all that it might be, although again the unseasonable weather may have been the cause. Tint o' Tan was very tall, about 44 inches—indeed most varieties seemed to be at their maximum heights here.

The Chicago Show, held in the Garfield Park Conservatory June 5th and 6th, gave me an opportunity to see Dr. Wilhelm's new brown iris I-B-37 which I had not seen before. Very lovely and unusual I found it—brown but not dark—possibly topaz will describe it as well as any word can—a slightly coppery tone, too, not quite a self, with velvety falls and self reticulations on soft dull yellow hafts. The beard is a rich orange tone but not bright, and blends in with the flower tone most beautifully. There were three branches and at least seven buds and flowers. I found it very lovely and unusual.

Dr. Wilhelm also showed Jacob Sass' The Red Douglas, which was judged the best stalk in the Show, and certainly it was an outstanding iris and as shown it well deserved the honor. Rich red-purple with a brown haft edge where the reticulations run together—almost a self, with velvet falls, but not a heavy velvet; very large and of good form. A very smooth flower, beautifully finished and of a particularly glowing color which must carry marvelously well in the garden. Three branches and seven or eight flowers.

Southland, a deep yellow with falls lightly veined giving a slightly deeper tone to them.

I visited the garden of Mr. David Hall at Wilmette at intervals during the iris season. Mr. Hall, our Regional Vice-President, is a keen hybridizer. All of his seedlings are pleasing and he has a few that are exceptionally nice. His 36-53, a deep soft yellow that he calls "smoky old-gold," or that might, perhaps, be called taffy-color, is a rich softened deep yellow toned flower with a touch of deeper color on the falls, as though they were delicately touched with a light "wash" of the deeper hue. The reticulations are of the same deeper hue. The somewhat ruffled standards arch and the falls flare. Ten flowers are well spaced on the 38-inch stalks. 36-71 is a deeper colored, richer Jean Cayeux, without the spot of

blue which Jean carries on the fall. The standards have more gold and more brown in them than do Jean's and are deeper and richer in color and more ruffled. The falls, too, are a deeper, richer color than Jean's with yellow hafts bearing delicate brown reticulations. The orange beard lightens and brightens the whole flower. Jean Cayeux, growing beside it, was dulled by the seedling. The falls of 36-53, slightly more ruffled than Jean's, are longer, while Jean's are wider and rounder. The stalk carries four rather close branches with eight flowers and is 37 inches tall.

Spring Prom (36-6) is one of the beautiful yellow seedlings from a single pod that bloomed for the first time in Mr. Hall's garden last year. It carries Dykes blood and its large size, but is of entirely different form; no streaks or spots and a height of 44 inches. Light primrose yellow with deeper reticulations and very slight ruffling it is a daintily crisp, clean colored flower. One can easily imagine a young girl going to Spring Prom in just such a dainty frock, possibly with a sash the color of the rich orange beard. The standards arch and the falls flare, the haft is wide and the falls have a delicate picot edge of deeper yellow. Last year, its first year to bloom, we measured a flower and found it to be $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches across. Four branches, beginning very low, carry nine flowers, well spaced. 36-5 from the same pod, is much like Spring Prom but a more ruffled flower, and the barest tone deeper in color. With the same wide hafts domed standards and flaring falls, not quite so tall as it was last year. As the plant was divided last fall, it was several inches shorter this year than last, but the flower appeared to be as large. Both of these seedlings are charming and worthy of a place in any garden.

Token, with bronzed yellow standards, darkest at the edges, and soft red falls with brown reticulation on a yellow haft, and a yellow stripe down the center of the fall, gives the impression—from a distance—of a darker and brighter Mary Geddes. Close up one sees that it does not have the veined falls as does Mary. Standards arch and the falls are somewhat wedge shaped. There are four branches on 36-inch stalks and the spacing is good.

Planted close together were a group of reds giving an excellent opportunity to compare them. Reddest of all was Mr. Hall's own Capt. Blood, similar to Cheerio, perhaps, but lighter and yellower standards—old gold, flushed deeper at the tops—and even brighter

red velvet falls with brown reticulations on a yellow haft. The standards were open and developed a slightly "windblown" appearance which possibly may be overcome another year. Continuing the comparison with Cheerio the seedling had more yellow on its haft and a longer more vivid beard. As grown here, side by side, both had four branches, wide and low, and Cheerio was decidedly taller—about 45 inches as against 37 inches. Cheerio was a slightly darker flower—due particularly to its darker standards with red-purple tones in them. Christabel was here, too, in the same general color range as Cheerio, but with somewhat lighter standards, carrying less purple in them. It had coarser reticulation on a paler haft. Nice form and good branching but only about 27 inches tall here. In its home in Elkhart it reached about 40 inches. Christabel appeared to have the most substance in its standards.

Ella Winchester had the largest flowers but its stalk, too, was low here. Decidedly bi-color with possibly the most purple in its red of all these and with perhaps the most pleasing form, it had little reticulation, a dull bronzy beard and two or three branches from above center. Burning Bronze had a considerable amount of purple in its lovely color—dulled by Capt. Blood, but beautiful none the less and beautifully branched and spaced—probably the best branching of all of these—and with a lovely form. Compared with Cheerio Burning Bronze is rosier and has less reticulation. Ethel Peckham was still rosier, with coarse reticulation on white. Spokane, not far from Token, is a much larger flower, with bronzier standards and rosier red falls. It did not exhibit normal height, but its coloring was beautiful, as usual.

In my own garden I think I took most pleasure in Sweet Alibi of my newer ones, not already mentioned. A creamy iris of perfect form, excellent substance and beautiful color, thoroughly satisfying in every way. Kalinga, too, continues to please me with its soft ivory tone and many blossoms. Oxheart, richly red-purple, of a color slightly different from any other I know, chances to grow near good old Morning Splendor, and looks well with it, I think. Castalia, gracing my garden since it came as a numbered seedling, outdid itself this year with extra tall stems bearing several opened blooms at a time. I have liked its charming light blue of even tone and excellent carrying quality since first I saw it.

In closing I should like to say a word for Purissima. I saw the

most beautiful clump of this lovely iris in Northbrook Iris and Peony Gardens this year that I have ever seen. Although it had received only routine care, I understand, it stood tall and beautifully proportioned, with many large, perfectly formed blooms, beautifully disposed upon the stems. I can scarcely imagine how even its native California could produce a lovelier clump. Let's give it a more complete trial in the mid-west.

GARDEN NOTES FOR 1937

ALEXANDER MAXWELL

Yakima, Washington

■ The Miller Gardens at Grandview, Washington, had a host of wonderful things and, as the entire planting is under contract to Wayman, with 175,000 rhizomes to ship, it looks as though Yakima Valley irises will have a large distribution.

Grandview rhizomes mature earlier than rhizomes grown at Yakima and are much larger in size, but our rate of increase is better as our nights are cooler in the growing season.

The Luke Norton gardens at Yakima had thousands of visitors. Mr. Norton does not sell plants and several growers combine with him in making this garden a test display garden. Every year there are on display from fifty to seventy-five of the new rare irises. We are fortunate, indeed, in being able to view so many new varieties each year in these gardens. Garden Clubs make the Norton gardens their headquarters during the blooming season, and they in turn give irises a great big boost.

The Roan garden at Ellensburg, Washington has a wonderful lot of new things and Mr. Roan will plant about fifty new irises this year. His season is later than Yakima's and he raises wonderful stock. His gardens are visited by people from far and near every year.

After visiting these gardens and after looking over the new plants in my own garden here is the way some of the new ones appealed to me:

WHITES. Snowking—big, tall, bold flower, perfect shape, candelabra branching and good in every way. The best white in my opinion.

Gudrun—long, large perfect flower; habit of bunching at the top; low growing. Rates next to Snowking.

Crystal Beauty—ice-white, large well-shaped flower; a little taller than Snowking with flowers well spaced.

Purissima—rates number four after these three.

LIGHT BLUES. Gloriele first; Anitra second; Shining Waters third. Lots of other good ones noted but these are tops.

DARK BLUES. Sierra Blue first; Blue Monarch second; Missouri third.

VIOLETS. The Black Douglas first; Black Wings second; Wineshiek third.

BLUE BLENDS. Sérénité stands at the top.

PINK BLENDS. Amitola first; Rameses second; Day Dream third.

LIGHT LILAC PINKS. Prairie Rose first; Pink Satin second; Imperial Blush third.

PURPLES. Directeur Pinelle is easily the best.

REDS AND COPPERS. Junaluska first; Ethel Peckham second; Cheerio third; Ella Winchester fourth.

BRONZE-PURPLES. Jeb Stuart; Ukiah; Tenaya.

YELLOW AND COPPER BLENDS. Copper Lustre first; Paranja second; Sunol third; Jean Cayeux fourth. What a class this is.

YELLOW SELFS. Happy Days first; California Gold second; Lucere third. Lady Paramount is very beautiful but stems were crooked and with me it is a little tender.

BROWN BLENDS. Spokane first; Helmet second; Vert Galant third.

Special mention but not classified for color:

Amenti. Another of those hard to describe Sass irises; good and a winner.

Avondale. A strawberry red with a yellow heart; is very, very fine.

Deseret. Here is a distinct color break. Vivid golden-yellow standards and brown streaked falls; good plant, tall and well branched.

Doré a well branched stalk with perfect, large flowers, yellow standards and white falls with that crinkled effect that is so beautiful.

Geneviève Serouge. Looks better than Anne-Marie Cayeux or Évolution. A good large flower that is outstanding.

Khorasan. Another winner that is hard to describe but one that the iris fancier is going to own some day.

K. V. Ayres. Of the warmer Afterglow coloring. Well liked.

Lighthouse. Imagine a flower of paler color than Avondale with a greenish canary-yellow suffusion that glows in shade or sun and this iris seems well named. An iris that everyone will want. It should rate very high indeed.

Marquita, with cream standards and rose-pink falls, is a beautiful flower, large and good; a tall, well branched grower.

Mussolini. A flower of the coloring of the old Nine Wells. It has a huge, long flower and is tall and fine. A winner in my opinion.

Naranja. Pretty close to an orange color and easily stands out as the most popular iris in the garden. When cheap it will go places.

Prairie Rose. A beautiful orchid-shaped pink in the lilac-pink class. It looks like a winner; everyone liked it.

There were plenty of other good ones but the above varieties in my opinion are outstanding.

IMPRESSIONS OF A CALIFORNIA IRIS SEASON

HAROLD I. JOHNSON

■ California weather has always been unusual. It is the usual thing. On Christmas Day, 1936, Sir Michael, an iris which always has acted strangely for me, produced several fine spikes. I wondered then if the balance of our winter would continue in the same mild way, and I had visions of a vast display of irises in early February. I did not have long to wonder. 1937 brought with it retaliatory blasts of ice; and for two whole weeks in January, gardeners around San Francisco Bay suffered from temperatures reaching down to twenty degrees—above zero of course. I and many others felt that we had experienced what must be the unhappy yearly woe of gardeners in less temperate climes. It was disheartening to brave the frigid air and observe the tender leaves of those irises which do not seem to want winter rest, such as San Gabriel, Easter Morn and Shining Waters, distorted and black from cold. My visions of any display of irises in the coming spring were very dim at this time.

However, when warmer days arrived, the garden acted as if it never had experienced such an unaccommodating winter. True, some tender evergreen plants had their leaves shorn, and others, like pelargoniums, had expired; but the irises, if anything, seemed to relish their cool rest. Warm March rains sent up more than the usual quantity of foliage and hints of future flower stalks. Only one variety evidenced signs of injury and that was San Gabriel, whose early buds apparently were frozen because many of the flower stalks were barren.

With the iris season in full swing, good performance seemed to be general throughout this region, and many new and some fine things were on display. I would like to comment on what I saw and grew, but as a relative newcomer I feel that some explanation is in order.

After one has grown irises for over five years, one develops manias probably peculiar to iris growers. The mad desire to hybridize is one of these, though acres be necessary and only a thirty-foot lot available. The sudden confidence that one is an acute judge of the iris is another, though time seems to be the best judge

of all horticultural productions. I suspect that I am possessed of both manias, and if I assume to pass comment on what I have grown or seen this season, I hope the reader will take my failings into consideration.

Concerning judging generally I always feel that praise should be reserved for encouragement except in the case of most meritorious advances. Crowns should not be loosely awarded for so-called final achievements which turn out to be mere passing stages. Thus, in the iris world, the loudly heralded reddest or pinkest flower always seems to give way to an iris more red or more pink, although laurels are bestowed freely.

I have less compunction about bestowing adverse criticism. If a flower has defects, those should be made known and explained.

In 1937, the most outstanding irises I grew or saw were Brunhilde, California Gold, Missouri, Shining Waters, Orloff and Radiant. The first four may some day be bettered, but their merit is such that for a long time, I am sure, they will not be discarded. The latter two I include as being significant steps toward the achievement of new iris colors.

I have included only one yellow in this list. I think the yellows have received too much attention, and that the point has been reached where development in this field is becoming subject to the law of diminishing returns. Newer productions seem not to supersede California Gold, which I rate highest among the yellows I have seen. It is not as tall as Happy Days, but the color is better and it does not fade. In early April adjoining blocks of these two irises in Carl Salbach's Berkeley garden created an almost staggering effect. Happy Days stems were well over forty inches tall, with California Gold stems only slightly shorter; and the individual flowers on each were about as large as one could wish an iris to be. One other fine yellow, which I would rate between California Gold and Happy Days, and which seems to have been overlooked, is Golden Bear. Flower placement is fine, and the color is clearer than most yellows. I certainly preferred it to Jelloway, which, although it brings into a very large flower the pure yellow of Gold Imperial, nevertheless, has a very floppy blossom and a pronounced tendency to fade. Perhaps a more established planting and a different location may produce better results. Naranja, also coming within this group, seemed less orange to me this year

than last. It is a large flower, with good growing habits, but if anything, I feel that it represents but a step in the development of a different range of iris colors.

There is more room for newer introductions in the yellow blend and variegata classes. Of recent varieties I prefer Radiant, Carl Salbach's 1936 introduction, which appeared markedly improved over last season. The color is intense, notably so in the evening, when it will be the shining spot of a garden. Although termed a "little giant" I found its height well over thirty inches and its flowers large enough to comply with all modern day requirements in an iris. At least it should be the forerunner of much improvement in iris color.

Grown alongside of Radiant, Copper Lustre appeared quite dull, but otherwise tall and well branched. It is an interesting, but not a great variety. I have seen it fade badly. Mary Geddes does the same with me. I do not think it worthy of a Dykes Medal.

Bronzino, a new Salbach introduction, carries forward the vogue for brownish shades into a large, well-branched and classical flower.

Golden Light had excellent form and substance. It should be a popular flower at its relatively low price.

Summer Tan seemed likewise to afford an excellent purchase for relatively little cost. Although it does not have the fine form of Golden Light, its color is considerably more unusual, and it appears to be a prolific bloomer.

For a brilliant variegata, providing a maximum number of blooms, I thought Professor Mitchell's Portola quite fine. I admit that its color is similar to Iris King or Fro, but who can deny that a patch of these varieties did provide a cheery spot in the garden. Portola is at least twice as tall and has flowers at least twice as large as those old timers. A row of Portola at Salbach's gardens this spring was an outstanding sight.

City of Lincoln had good form and height. It could be more brilliant.

Casque d'Or on a first year plant was a trifle short-stemmed. The large flowers have deep maroonish falls and dull gold standards, and could very well have formed part of the fleur-de-lis coat of arms of some French gentleman pirate.

Marquita seems to belong in the variegata class. It is a pity that

the perfection of the standards could not be duplicated in the falls. But the unusual nature of the flower should long endear it to the iris growing public. For an effective color group, try it with Helios and Shining Waters.

Novelties in other colors seemed to be fewer in number.

Spokan and Sir Launcelot, although improved King Tuts, are not too improved. I would like to see a King Tut with the form, branching and finish of Shining Waters.

Cheerio I would call a jolly flower, although its substance seems weak. Junaluska is worthwhile, though a hot sun will bleach its standards.

The Red Douglas is a big flower and probably, to some, a fine flower; but red to me means something brilliant, and after the sun had gone down behind the hill on the west side of the garden in which I saw this variety, the flower seemed to have merely a dull purplish-red shade. I found it a trifle short-stemmed, too, but this fault may be rectified in future seasons.

Tenaya and Ukiah, not unlike, are both fine in their color range. Tenaya and Black Wings form an interesting, if unexpected, color harmony.

Shah Jehan is a most vivid flower. There is the faintest element of the absurd about it, and I find its colors rather reminding me of Santa Claus and Christmas chimneys. Something so unusual should, however, be treasured. It is a true amoena, as will be markedly shown by comparing it with Mildred Presby.

Creole Belle's color I did not like, nor did its rather bizarre shoulder straps attract me into purchasing it for my collection. Having it, I would be tempted to breed from it, and I would hate the thought of having an enormous number of its epaulet bearing progeny scattered throughout my garden.

Missouri appealed to me as being one of the best looking irises I have ever seen. The stem is tall, the branching perfect, and the flower-substance and form place it right along with Shining Waters as one of the finest of the blues.

Brunhilde is now probably so well known that its excellence need not be commented on. It seems destined to be one of the most popular irises in existence, and like Missouri and Shining Waters, appears to belong among the great in blue irises.

Eros I found most insignificant. Much work is necessary to pro-

duce a really pink iris, that is, a pink such as found in dahlias like *Delice* or even *Kathleen Norris*.

Snowking I found with stem too short, but otherwise fine. Like *The Red Douglas*, acclimatization here may reveal startling improvement.

Bridal Veil offers a good-looking white. Its tendency to throw two standard flowers is more marked early in the season.

In a moment of enthusiasm I thought *Orloff* the greatest advance step of the iris year coming to my attention. Brownish red finely stippled on a creamish background, like cinnamon in egg nog, the flower form is excellent, the branching good, and the height satisfactory. My enthusiasm may be tempered after I have grown this variety, but when I first saw it I felt that here was something new and different. Mind you, I do not say that it is one of the greatest irises of the year. Its merit arises out of the future activity in this line that it suggests and makes possible.

With so much of interest in the iris world, one could wish the season to be prolonged indefinitely. That wish might be granted if the autumn flowering irises were more satisfactory. All of my fall blooming irises are certainly dependable spring bloomers, but so far they have not felt the urge to bloom a second time.

Failing everblooming irises, one can only watch seed pods develop, arrange for seed planting, and dream about future seasons and outstanding originations of your own which are sure to come from those pods you have so carefully watched. Now and then a straggling seedling will burst into bloom, but somehow or another these out of season blooms always appear of mediocre stuff. And sometimes I think that these dreams of a much better next year's season is the only thing which makes us tolerate the desert-like foliage and the despairing appearance of a late summer's iris garden.

ALONG THE IRIS COAST—1937

JULIUS DORNBLUT, JR.

■ A wealth of bloom was the unexpected reward irisarians of the Pacific Northwest received this spring for weathering a most exasperating winter of cold weather and late frosts.

Many of the newest creations were in bloom in the National Iris Gardens of the kindly, hospitable Weeds at Beaverton, Oregon, when I visited. Unfortunately a few of the very latest novelties were not yet growing well enough to evaluate properly.

Two *oncoeyclus* gathered in Syria at an elevation of 6,500 feet attracted an unusual amount of attention. Of plum-purple coloring, *antilibonatica* was really the most unique. *Sofarana* is similar to *susiana*, though somewhat lighter in coloring. Thurlow Weed considers these the greatest curiosities in irises at the present time.

Junaluska with velvety reddish brown falls and less intense standards of the same coloring was highlighted throughout by an infusion of yellow. The branching and substance were good. After having gone through the whole Weed planting I walked by Junaluska with the setting sun behind it. Nothing in the garden was more regal.

Crystal Beauty was not in the running. Many older whites are far superior out West. Who said Purissima is tender? It withstood zero weather and late frosts and then bloomed perfectly everywhere seen. In my garden it was without special drainage or soil doctoring. Gudrun, Easter Morn, Joyance are all better whites than Crystal Beauty and are better performers.

Another disappointment—The Black Douglas. Its segments are too narrow for a well bred iris. Why “black”? Where does any Scotchman see a single quality which deserves the name “Douglas”?

Among the new “reds” I found Ella Winchester. Few new irises in this color class have more distinction as to form, carriage and proportion. Although Ethel Peckham qualifies well along with Ella Winchester on this score. A strip of less intense coloring running down the center of the falls adds considerable character. Returning to Ethel Peckham—the award for the most sophisticated perfume in the iris world probably belongs to this flower.

Marco Polo, a reddish brown novelty, did not seem well enough

established to appraise satisfactorily. The bloom is interesting though not outstanding. One might place Spokane in the same category. The large strap falls of this are compensated for by crinkled stands.

It is gratifying to know that scores of good primrose yellows are in the offing. Lady Paramount has flecked everywhere seen again this year and was weak in the knees in several gardens. Eilah lacked substance and lustre.

Why Lady Paramount won an award of merit is an unfathomable mystery to me. There is no doubt that when it was first introduced it was superlatively fine in comparison with other light yellows. It may not then have shown its unfortunate tendencies. But certainly the members of the Awards Committee have been around enough to know that it is not now the best primrose available! An award of merit remains an advertising aide in iris catalogues for years. The society is doing itself a great deal of harm by allowing freckled weaklings such as Lady Paramount to be the recipients of high awards which serve to commend them to an unknowing and unsuspecting gardening world over and above better irises similarly colored introduced a few years later.

For a number of years BULLETIN readers have heard about Gloriette, about its frosty overlay of sparkling crispness, about its delicate light blue color. None of these reports have been over exaggerated. Gloriette is an iris apart.

Copper Lustre presents a clean cut appearance. The falls have more brown in them than the published color cut would indicate. One might wish for a larger stalk and better branching to carry the big flowers. Where would one put Copper Lustre in the garden? Mrs. Weed suggests placing this unusual thing with the lavenders. Jean Cayeux, whose creamed coffee appearance has a similar landscape effect, has a slight bluish lavender flush below the beard. Sticklers for form might criticize the strap falls of Copper Lustre. Like Jean Cayeux it needs more real sparkle to hold attention in any picture.

Happy Days and California Gold still gleam in my memory as the best real yellows introduced so far that I have seen. California Gold is the deeper colored of the two, flowers later, has more olive in its reticulations. Happy Days has everything implied in its name!

Coralie, with its Dykes Medal, remains a pet peeve of many an iris lover. Lacking in color harmony and often strength of stalk, I fail to see it worthy of a high award. Dr. Ayres has given us several finer things which could really qualify for a Dykes Medal.

Indian Hills, a seedling of Dr. Harry Lee Grant's, and which Mr. Schreiner is introducing this year, stood out among the many guests at Weeds'—floriferous, and quite distinctive with its blue-violet coloring.

Two Weed introductions are worthy of notice. Wine Glory is a good clump of color, is reddish purple with some violet, is to be desired because of its long blooming season. The large oval falls of Beauty's Shrine, a white with a very faint bluish cast, present something not often seen in this classification. Unfortunately the standards are a bit floppy.

Proudly displayed in the Weed office were two seedling spikes of the largest primrose yellow I have yet seen. Fine flared falls possess an orange beard which lights up the whole flower. Slight veinings on the falls did not detract from the general royal appearance. The branching is all that could be desired.

In F. A. Thole's scrupulously clean Seattle garden a Député Nomblot x Zuni brownish red seedling took my eye. Its large standards are clear and more evenly colored than those of Zuni. The flaring falls, such as Député Nomblot parentage might indicate, are a clearer, richer tan and have less reticulations than do those of Zuni.

Chief Seattle, which is being introduced this year in Mr. Thole's catalogue, is a harmonious flower having bronze tan standards with a rose flush and falls of coppery rose, faintly edged bronze. The Chief has fair substance and his reticulations are really quite civilized.

Two guest seedlings of Mr. Collier's temporarily known as Sir Mike and The Baron seemed worthy of introduction. Sir Mike, while smaller than Sir Michael, has cleaner electric blue standards. The falls lack the brownish overcast of its namesake. Sir Mike is definitely a more harmonious flower. The substance is good, the branching—fair.

The Baron, a violet self, is a flower with large rounded, silky standards and velvety, flaring falls. It is broad of haft and is very

shy of reticulations. Many flowers are open at a time which are well displayed.

In Doctor Eller's lovely little "color" garden overlooking the silvery waters of the Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains beyond bloomed an interesting seedlings. This ochraceous yellow, gray-lavender iris of the doctor's is quite unusual in that the outer side of the standards presents the exact coloring of the under side of the falls. Coming from Député Nomblot x Sindjkha, it has good substance and flaring falls. Seen in the right light it shows a beautiful turquoise sheen.

George Brehm's garden was the last one visited. I had heard of several new cream and yellow seedlings which were awaiting there. That Mr. Brehm had good yellows I remembered from last year, but his Ellen Nessel made me whistle. This iris, named in honor of the hybridizer's mother, has poise, distinction, and finish such as is seldom seen in any iris. The glistening semi-flaring falls have a tiny splotch of white below the beard. The standards are large and well rounded. While not intense, Ellen Nessel really registers in the landscape. The branching is good.

In my own garden Shah Jehan was eagerly awaited as I had read the glowing reports of it in the BULLETINS. It is royally splendid, looks well even in the rain, but somehow I was disappointed. Perhaps it was too well advertised. Its pinched falls will surely be criticized.

Sierra Blue was impressive again wherever grown. El Tovar needs better branching. Burning Bronze is a "must have." Shining Waters, not yet thoroughly distributed, was truly breath taking with its fresh waxen beauty.

At the close of each season I like to conjure in my mind again and again the iris picture which pleased me most. This year the gorgeous patches of *Iris missouriensis* along the highway going through the Blackfoot Indian Reservation leading to Glacier National Park gave me more than the usual delight. They were a quietly joyous prelude for the grandeur that is Glacier.

VARIETAL NOTES

NORFLEET WEBB

■ The iris season just past has been filled with the opportunity to see many beautiful varieties. Among my notes taken in the Sarah P. Duke Memorial Garden and the garden of Dr. F. M. Hanes, Durham, N. C., and Mr. Junius P. Fishburn, Roanoke, Va., I find several that I think might be of interest to readers of the BULLETIN. I have included both new and old varieties, because I feel that some of the old ones are still "tops."

Alice Harding (Cayeux 1933). A well formed flower of the yellow group but by no means the best of the color. Splendid substance. Well branched and good bloomer.

Blue Velvet (Loomis 1929). Still hard to beat in the rich dark blue class.

California Gold (Mitchell 1933). Rich metallic yellow. Large flowers of good form. Well worth growing.

Coralie (Ayres 1932). Delightful color effect. Standards rose-pink with traces of lavender. Falls a warm wine red set off by a pure golden beard.

Dog Rose (Insole 1930). Prolific bloomer and very lovely.

Easter Morn (Essig 1931). Early. A beautiful fragrant white flower. Very bad stalks and foliage, but worth growing for the fragrance.

Eclat (Gage 1934). Why consider only size? Small well formed pink and copper blended flower. Will be good for massing.

Eilah (Loomis 1935). The outstanding yellow in Mr. Fishburn's garden. Yellow flower of good form and substance carried on excellent stalks.

Eros (Mead 1934). Excellent for garden effect. Would be better if stems were two inches shorter.

Exclusive (Grant 1937). Quite striking. Blooming well on one year plants. The color is a most striking and unusual shade of blue.

Gloriole (Gage 1933). Glorious! A fine flower of light blue with a sheen of white that gives the appearance of being covered with dew. Very finished.

Golden Light (H. P. Sass 1933). A large ruffled flower of interesting coloring.

Gudrun (Dykes 1931). Excellent large flower. Glistening white. Usually a little short stalked, but as shown in Wilmington would be hard to beat.

Golden Hind (Chadburn 1934). The nearest thing to buttercup yellow. Needs more testing.

Golden Treasure (Schreiner 1936). A beautiful cream with yellow center. A wonderful flower. Prolific bloomer. Pollen fertile.

Happy Days (Mitchell 1934). Certainly a good yellow iris. Does well in both North Carolina and Virginia.

Imperial Blush (H. P. Sass 1933). With only the blush of a queen. A vigorous grower and prolific bloomer.

Jerry (Lapham 1934). Excellent red iris. Stalks of medium height and well branched.

Junaluska (Kirkland 1934). A beautiful iris of unusual coloring. Fine garden effect.

Missouri (Grinter 1933). The best of the blues. No fault to find.

Naranja (Mitchell 1935). Probably the outstanding recent introduction. Unusual color. Good form and substance.

No-we-ta (H. P. Sass 1932). Small but rates with the best. Garden effect perfect.

Ozone (J. Sass 1935). Extremely unusual and interesting. Very good.

Persia (Ayres 1929). Perfect form. Good substance and size. Not new but still one of the best.

Sensation (Cayeux 1925). Still one of the best.

Sierra Blue (Essig 1930). Dykes metal winner and justly so.

Snowking (H. P. Sass 1935). The best white.

Venus de Milo (Ayres 1931). A great deal better than a number of the newer whites.

Violet Crown (Kirkland 1931). Always good. One of the best.

Dr. Hanes has two seedlings that have not been introduced but which give promise of becoming very popular. Betty Hanes bloomed for the second time this season. It lives up to everything that he accredits to it in the February issue of the BULLETIN. Something really fine. Has great carrying value. Carolina Moon has about the same measurements as Happy Days but not quite so much brown. Time will tell us more about both of these fine irises.

NOTES ON IRISES ENTERED FOR THE ROMAN GOLD MEDAL

BY THE CONTESSA MARY SENNI

■ Among the irises entered for the Roman Gold Medal are thirty-seven or thirty-eight entries from three foreign countries. They are planted under number and only the Park Director, Dr. Braschi, has the names of the raisers, so the jury will have no clue. These notes are the result of visits to the Colle Oppio park on April 10th, 19th, 30th and May 5th. I must say the irises did extremely well in their first season, though of course they will probably be stronger and larger next year.

It is an amusing game wondering who they are from and I would make a faint guess that 10, 11 and 19 are from Cayeux.

The rules of the contest have been changed so that one root instead of two is accepted although, of course, two roots are a better insurance against loss or a poor bloom, and they may be sent up to and throughout January, 1938, for the 1939 contest.

There were only six or seven Italian entries but there will be more next year.

The bed of fine modern varieties, many of which were most generous gifts from America, was extremely interesting; over two-thirds flowered, and the park attendant said various people came and took notes. It is certain that the initiative of the Governor of Rome, with its practical stimulus, will do more to promote iris growing in Italy than anything else which could be done. The irises are in a temporary position, as the slope beyond the ruins of the Golden House of Nero has not yet been turned over to the Park Department, but they are very well placed as they are against the Colosseum.

Report of foreign irises entered for the Roman Gold Medal in 1938:—

1. Mauve-rose, rich color, good shape, orange beard, 2 ft.; a brighter Romance.
2. Tall, fine yellow self with almost an absinthe tinge, big flower, very effective.
3. Lilac falls and honey yellow standards, flaring shape; rather an improved Asia.

5. Crimson wine self, color of Lelia.
6. Tall, good shape, beautiful light tobacco color, like tussor silk; a lovely color-pale cafe au lait.
7. Tall, vigorous variegata; falls rich cherry red, standards old gold; very handsome.
8. Pale lilac and cream blend; big.
10. Curious blend of Balroudour coloring; blue-grey standards, rich plum-red falls, white veined, with a light edge like a pansy.
11. Violet-blue plicata, with a dark edge all around the falls.
13. Pale, like Moonlight, good shape, broad falls and erect standards; improves with age.
15. Low, very free (five stalks), pale copper or currant red; somewhat like Zuni.
16. Good dark violet-blue self, white beard, good shape, broad falls.
17. Tall mauve self of even color; a darker Thais.
19. Intensely dark, almost black, with a tall stout stem. It is purple-black, not violet-black and is much darker than Louis Bel.
20. Low copper-red, light; very promising.
21. Very good warm pink, with yellow center, tall, fairly branching.
22. Intense yellow self, in color like Cayeux's Roboliot, but holds it better in sun.
24. A beautiful color, very rich orange and buff, slightly metallic tinge to falls; 2 ft.
25. Tall pink-lilac.
26. Pale, rather washed out honey, with red veins.
27. A better Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau.
30. A very fine yellow, even color, well branched, big flower with long straight falls.
35. Blush-pink, tall.
36. Low, very strong blend of old ivory and dark grey veining.

WILMINGTON'S 1937 MEETING

CARRIE STOVER LEWIS

■ It was pleasant when we entered the dining-room at the Hotel duPont at Wilmington, Monday night, May 24th, to see five other New England members. Dr. and Mrs. Graves of Concord, New Hampshire, with their charming daughter, Mrs. Johnston, whom we later found to be a sister Wellesleyite, sat at the next table to Mrs. Birdsall and me. At a table farther down the room was Miss Ruth Adt of New Haven, Connecticut, and Dr. Brown from Barre, Massachusetts, was in a distant corner. Later Mr. and Mrs. Nesmith arrived and were given the room next to me. The following morning Mr. McKee came and lived opposite, and when Dr. and Mrs. Everett were assigned to rooms on the same corridor, we felt that 1937's Annual Meeting had started under good auspices.

Tuesday morning we spent registering, greeting old acquaintances and making new ones. Immediately after the Dutch Treat lunch, we started out in three busses, each holding thirty or more persons, to visit gardens. A hostess accompanied each bus. I was particularly fortunate in having one of them, Mrs. Carpenter, as a seat-mate.

The first garden visited was "Gibraltar," the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Rodney Sharp. These gardens were almost entirely in blue and shades of violet against a green background, with now and then an accent of yellow, supplied, as I remember, by some high bushes of Harison's yellow roses. Occasionally a tall stately yucca was placed advantageously with a few pale pink peonies. Touches here and there of a brighter pink, a lavish use of ivy on the fences and the ground, and a few tubs of amaryllis against it, everything tied together creating a most beautiful effect.

We went on to "Goodstay," the garden of Mrs. Ellen duPont Meeds, where the borders within the low retaining walls showed signs of the earlier spring things that we were too late to see—veronica, *Iris pumila*, *Phlox divaricata* and so forth. The garden must have been a dream when the wistaria was in bloom with the many fruit trees. Among the mass of irises greeting us, Colonel Nicholls' exquisite Sunmist was most conspicuous. In the center of a pavement of flagstones, a stone basin filled with sparkling water

reflected the blue sky and fleecy clouds of a summer's afternoon, while around the flagging a planting of tall irises, K. V. Ayres, Valor, Burning Bronze, Red Dominion, Indian Chief, and perhaps Député Nomblot, among others which we had no time to identify, made a background for lower varieties, among which I thought I caught glimpses of Gudrun, Coralie, Lux, Marquita, and perhaps Crown Jewel.

Surrounding the terrace, we noted Ballerine, Morning Splendor, Asia, Sensation, Blue Banner, with that fine old blue Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau who, flaunting her bright orange beard most shamelessly holding her own with her saucy young competitors, Princess Beatrice, Mlle. Schwartz, and old Mt. Royal dark and handsome which, each year when it first appears in my own garden I always have to stop and admire, Helios that brilliant yellow, and old Wyomissing—Wyomissing that I thought was lost but which I have just found at home. When Wyomissing first appeared in the days when I spent my time poring over Mr. Farr's catalogues twenty-five years or more ago, it was one of the high priced irises—one dollar a piece. I visualized it tall and beautiful, almost as tall as Juanita, the tallest of all. Later years I have not recognized it because it was short. For long it has been one of those exasperating unidentified ones. But at last I have it. I am afraid I must keep it in memory of those old days when we owed so much to Mr. Farr's inspiration. His old catalogues are a treasured part of my library, valuable books of reference, brought out every year when hunting out some old favorite. And Shekinah! What a lovely patch of Shekinah I used to have, not so many years ago! Certainly as the years whirl by, favorite irises come and go. I so hate to discard one. Such is the make-up of a collector! I would love to see Mrs. Meeds' garden through the season from dwarfs to Japanese.

From "Goodstay" we were taken to "Still Pond" where, on the right as we walked along the driveway to the house, we stopped to look over the bank to a basin, filled with water with stone coping which seemed to hang by one side and float in the air, and a big bed of *tectorum* that made me gasp with envy even though my own lot of *tectorum* is not to be sneezed at. Farther away, in the green of the trees, was a beautiful pink azalea. Our hostess, Mrs. W. K. duPont welcomed us in the hall from which we passed into a rambling antique room where there was a private flower show. Here

beautiful examples of tree peonies were displayed and lovely single peonies. Portraits hung on the walls amongst them some of Mrs. duPont's daughter, Mrs. Ross, as a girl. The room was filled with marvelous antiques and many exquisite flower arrangements, one all white that was specially lovely.

From "Still Pond" we walked across the grass to "Elton," the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Felix duPont. Here, in a thatched arbor covered with wistaria a delicious punch was served. Inside the arbor was a unique use of shells of all kinds and descriptions. Mrs. duPont greeted us and bade us good-bye at a dividing gate-way.

At three o'clock we went to Longwood to attend the Iris Show sponsored by the Garden Club of Wilmington in the conservatories of Mr. and Mrs. Pierre S. duPont. Five acres under glass is a lot. One house was given up to the Show, and I had the impression of never being in so light a room; a marvelous sun-shiny spot to see the flowers! It is not of the slightest use for me to attempt to describe the irises. I could not do it. Besides that is in the capable hands of Mrs. Hires. I must mention, though, the great cool shadowy azalea and rhododendron house with its water and fountains everywhere. It seemed to me that the whole five acres were under that one roof.

At six o'clock we were due at "The Patch," where Mrs. William C. Spruance welcomed the American Iris Society and members of the Garden Club of Wilmington to a buffet supper.

Passing through the attractive house to the terrace outside, we found a spacious lawn encircled with trees and shrubs. Mrs. Spruance's shrubbery is said to be most beautifully planted, but there was no time to see her rare ferns, her trilliums and all the precious woodsy things. We were told that *Cornus kousa* and *Cornus mas*, together with the dogwoods and Judas trees formed a thicket with wild roses under which in the shallow soil on the hillside flourished ferns, Maiden Hair, and the Royal Fern, together with *Iris cristata*, trilliums, columbines, fringed orchids and cypripediums.

Many small tables were set out in this enclosure, grouped most invitingly, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the delectable supper provided for us. The liquid refreshments went right to the spot for we were a weary lot of people.

On our return to the Hotel duPont, long after the scheduled hour, the real annual meeting was called to order by President Everett.

On his right sat Vice-President McKee, on his left Secretary Morrison, facing an imposing group of Iris Society members. After his welcoming speech Dr. Everett told us of an important happening at the directors' meeting in the morning. Much to everyone's regret, Mr. Richardson Wright's resignation as treasurer had been accepted but because of ten years of faithful service and devotion to the society the directors had voted to present him with the Gold Medal of the American Iris Society.

This medal has been given only twice before. First, to Mr. John C. Wister for the wonderful work which he did in building up the society during its first fifteen years, and again to Miss Grace Sturtevant, the dean of American Iris breeders. It is a distinct honor to receive this medal as its bestowals have been so few.

After the secretary's report Mr. Morrison read the treasurer's report. Mr. McKee spoke of the reason and necessity for plenty of judges, concerning which questions have been raised. The distances are so great in this country and the gardens so scattered that in order to have the irises known and judged by a sufficient number of judges it is well to have several in each region to cover the ground. He also said that criticisms had been made because all the judges were not competent, and he implied that judges were made, not born, and in order to be trained, it was necessary to judge. Ability comes only from experience, therefore it is necessary to make the training practically a school for judges.

The regional vice-presidents were called upon to tell of the work in the various regions. New England, being number one, reported first, and the society was told of the proposed pilgrimages to the various gardens during the coming iris season. Also, of the plan to raise money for colored slides to be shown to garden groups, members of the society, and flower lovers. It is planned to loan them to other regions, the idea having a three-fold object—to show to the gardening public how beautiful the newer irises are with the hope that the older, inferior varieties, may in time be done away with, thereby creating a demand for the better ones; to help hybridizers and introducers increase their clientele; and to create an added interest in the Iris Society.

Mrs. Bachman told of the work done in the south and specially of the illness of Mrs. Graham of Rome, Georgia.

Wednesday morning an early start was made for "Cool Spring"

to see the gardens of Mr. and Mrs. H. Fletcher Brown. Passing through the house, we reached the top of the garden—a series of terraces stretching down to the water. An oak tree three hundred and fifty years old, the most magnificent that I ever saw, was on one of the lower terraces, while under a huge old mulberry tree the ground was covered with periwinkle. What a paradise for robins when the mulberries are ripe! Each level had its individual garden. One circular bed contained nothing but Japs, and another tall bearded irises. A lovely pool lined with blue had a boy holding a dolphin on one side and on the other a huge shell. A large juniper stood guard at either corner and tiny plants were tucked in between with occasional fine clumps of irises.

At “Granogue,” where the Ireneé duPonts live, we found a series of rock and wall gardens, Johnnie-jump-ups and mint growing in the interstices of the steps. Mrs. Ireneé said that her hobby is Japanese irises but she had some noteworthy examples of Siberians and a fine collection of novelties. Gudrun, California Gold, Meldoric—which I find very slow of increase but extremely rich in coloring—Natividad, Rosy Asia, Valor, and Alta California, the novelties planted by the green-house. Across the drive were some seedlings, perhaps Wabash and some of Mr. Williams’ introductions. One of the Siberians was a beautiful white the name of which I do not know. And that most gorgeous Turquoise Cup of Mrs. Cleveland’s.

“Hillgirt Farm,” the country home of Mr. Harry G. Haskell, was the next stopping place. Here the garden is close to the house and is full of color and sunshine, but the thing that seems to stand out in my memory is an enormous skeleton of a mill wheel rising high above the old mill against the sky. Never have I seen so slender a wheel. My idea of a mill wheel has always been one buried under water. This certainly was an inspiration and an imposing sight. We picked our way down the stone path and steps, through an archway and around the mill into the open garden where we found a little basin of water edged with stone and surrounded with masses of heliotrope. And all around us were the Brandywine meadows and a great herd of sleek cattle which added no little to the beauty of the picture. We were told that only a few years ago, less than ten I think, the old stone farmhouse stood alone with its orchards behind it. But a miracle has come to pass! An

ancient garden has been brought piece by piece, a wall built of weathered stones, with a coping of hand-split shingles one hundred years old. Old box hedges, fruit trees and centifolia roses, while Hugonis roses, Bridalwreath spirea and Persian lilacs with their delicate sprays leaning over the wall, create a most lovable picture. The wall is irregular in shape, some low, and some high, with a few Siberian irises mixed with ferns at the bottom. Here one recognized old yellow *Flavescens*, beautiful blue *Ballerine*, a yellow iris that might have been *Gold Imperial* and Farr's lovely old *Georgia*.

Pink azaleas against the white house were most charming and white violets that are so intriguing when in bloom—and such an exasperating weed afterwards—lent their magic to the whole. One could go on forever and not tell half of the beauties that one would like to linger over, but those wretched busses honked, and we had to go, for although today in our own car, we did not dare not to obey, or how would we find the way!

And so we came to “Winterthur,” Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. duPont's. We can never tell you of all the wonders that we saw there! It is too big a subject to cover in a snapshot view. We passed through a woodsy path up a hill with sweet rocket and green ferns everywhere, and over the brow we descended into a glade where we saw a bewildering mass of irises, big patches of all kinds, against a background of gigantic oaks, beeches and tulip trees.

We so seldom see the tulip tree in the north, and are so proud of our own, more than fifty years old, that it was a delight to find so many there. To describe the irises that we saw at “Winterthur” is beyond us. It seems better to give our impressions of the whole wonderful place. At best it was only a quick look here and there. After the irises we went through a great patch of azaleas and rhododendrons under trees shady and cool, and came out to the bathhouse, backed by a high wall, and a tea-house at the other side of the terrace. In front of us was the gorgeous swimming pool in the sunshine. At the bottom of a long flight of steps we came out below the house, high above us.

Some of us climbed the long flight of stone steps, flanked on either side with great jars of snapdragons, to the grassy lawn in front of the house, shaded by noble trees, whose tall straight trunks topped with lightning rods, seemed to soar to high Heaven. They must have belonged to the virgin forest! Then those busses honked

again and we hurried down those fascinating steps, not caring for the moment if we never had luncheon, if we had to leave that wondrous spot. But off we started for the Wilmington Country Club as guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. Fletcher Brown for luncheon. And were we thankful for it! We *were* hungry. Garden fans never seem to have an idea of time or what is good for them. It was all so delightfully cool and refreshing. My Old-fashioned certainly found the right spot! Mr. and Mrs. Brown entertained us most royally with a delicious luncheon and again we hated to leave.

We proceeded to Mrs. Ross's, whose garden is an exquisite and rare gem, one end of which is walled in by a stone summer house. Here were clematis trailing over the stone coping, and irises grown to perfection. In our hurried glimpses only a few of the best known could be distinguished. Ballerine loved by everyone for its color, W. R. Dykes always so sturdy, Nene noted for its size but not its excellence, Cinnabar, Sensation a heavenly blue, Indian Chief always outstanding, Santa Barbara with its swanky falls and lovely color, Dolly Madison, a glorified Quaker Lady, tricky William Mohr, Mrs. Valerie West that masterpiece of Bliss, and Purissima worth any amount of trouble to raise, Dominion, King Karl—where are we to stop? These and many others complete two wide bands of color below the summer house.

And then Mr. and Mrs. R. R. M. Carpenter's house at "Dilwyn" was so attractive with her sunroom directly opposite the doorway as we entered the house. The walls of the sunroom were covered with pots filled with ferns giving a delightfully cool effect. Never shall I forget the kindly charm of Mrs. Carpenter and her thought for the comfort of her guests.

While our stay at "Eleutherean Mills" was too short, I cannot forget the refreshing hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Francis H. Crowninshield. This was the original site of the "Upper Yard" where was the first office of the duPont Company and the salt petre refinery. Mrs. Crowninshield inherited this from her father, Colonel Henry duPont and has made a most interesting house with a broad flagged terrace at one end, running back of the house, where it was shady and cool. Down the winding steps to the garden, with water dripping over the old wall, where are pools, and the openings to the arched furnaces, and great iron pots in which salt petre was crystallized, are masses of irises between the mill race

and the Brandywine; and again between this race and the foot of the garden. Here a pleasant surprise awaited me when I saw the familiar face of our own Mrs. Burrage, one time president of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts. O, these hurried visits to their beautiful gardens! Will we ever have another chance, I wonder, to check up on all the beauties that we missed!

Thursday, the 27th of May, we left Wilmington for Woodbury, New Jersey, to see the garden of Mr. M. E. Douglas. This was one of the most instructive gardens that we visited, for everything was plainly labeled. Here everyone was asking the whereabouts of Jacob Sass's The Red Douglas. One would think that was the only thing to see! It was lovely but only one amongst many lovely things. Shah Jehan, a first year plant, was well worth seeing as were Amigo, a Williamson production with light lavender standards and lustrous pansy-purple falls with a white margin, a glorified B. Y. Morrison. Miss Sturtevant's Good Cheer one of the finest variegatas with its clear yellow standards and bright yellow falls veined with red. It is a good sized flower with a graceful stem—many were the praises bestowed upon it that day. Beotie was another with large finely formed blooms, grey blended with blue, one of Cayeux's and very Frenchy. Gloriele came in for its share of admiration. Junaluska, one of Chancellor Kirkland's triumphs, tall and well branched, a rose-copper and gold blend; Blue Dusk, a Reibold introduction last year, deep blue standards of satin and falls of velvet with blue beard; Ingenieur Winssinger, a French creation, little known, velvety russet brown resembling El Tovar somewhat; Jake Sass's Sir Launcelot, a lovely velvety golden brown with a rich golden beard—and many others which Mr. Douglas said were first year plants, held one spellbound. To name them all would be like writing a catalogue. Among the outstanding irises that he has given a longer try-out were Blue Velvet, Cameliard, Brown Betty, Copper Lustre, Coralie, Dauntless, Député Nomblot, Desert Gold which comes early and stays late. Desert Gold was a true subject for a Dykes Medal and I shall never cease to regret that it was passed by until it was too old to compete—it has every necessary quality except height. Jean Cayeux, another intriguing French iris, café au lait in color, stood out amongst the rest; Mary Geddes, which grows so luxuriously—it is like a willow wand; stick a piece in the ground and you soon have a big patch. Venus

de Milo, that exquisite white; Sunol, another rapid increaser from California. There is no place to stop. It was a garden full of treasures, every one of which, that I did not own, made me forget the commandment "Thou shalt not covet." It would take days to digest all the beauties of that garden, and that miserable honking started up before we even thought of the cool drink and delicious sandwiches that our charming chatelaine had prepared for us. But I kept them waiting while I snatched some of it as I never let an opportunity slip to add pounds.

And then on to Philadelphia, through Fairmount Park made famous in 1876 as the site of the Centennial Exposition, the first World's Fair ever held in the United States, to Mr. Wister's home in Germantown. Here were more irises. Passing between the stone posts that mark the entrance to the driveway, we circled round to the hospitable home, through the welcoming shade of trees and shrubs for the highway had been glaring and the day very warm. Before starting on our box luncheon, we stole a peep at the gorgeous display of irises planted in a field on the slope of a hill in broad sweeps of color. One patch especially seemed to be significant of the long friendship between Mr. Wister and Mr. Morrison—a great clump of B. Y. Morrison that must have started in college days and expanded with the years. And that punctuates something that I have learned this summer—that many irises that are overlooked in a crowd, when seen in a great group, take on an added beauty. Many irises that I have felt must go into the discard for lack of space have so endeared themselves to me by their charm in great clumps that I cannot let them go. After the box luncheon, sitting on the steps or under the trees, we went out again to identify the irises, but we had wasted too much time over the luncheon and soon the signal came and we reluctantly departed with a sense of everything left undone. But I know that *Pluie d'Or* was there.

By the time we reached Swarthmore College I ceased to register any particular irises. A big stretch of lawn, hot and sunny, with many lovely irises planted sparsely round two sides of a square. I looked at them all carefully but I do not remember one. When we heard the honking this time we were not so sorry. We had seen so much; we were filled to the brim. It was like an Art Gallery—one can take in so much and come again another day.

After a stop at Frazer to visit Jesse Nicholls, Jr., where we found him moving his garden across the road, we travelled on to Ardmore. On the way a most terrific thunder storm broke over our heads. It was difficult to see the road ahead and after a while we lost our guiding star, that much maligned bus, and travelled six miles beyond Ardmore. At last we drew up beside the road to let the cars behind catch up with us so that we might compare notes. There was only one and it turned out to be that of Mr. Cooley. He and William went into a garage and found that we had overshot the mark by six miles. Retracing our steps, we arrived at Mrs. Hires' to find everyone in the garden and the sun shining. But as Mrs. Hires' buffet supper was ready, we had only a few moments to see the irises. Mr. Williams took me out again to see some of his productions and told me that it is a tremendous thrill to see your own blooming in another's garden. I can well believe it and may I sometime have the same good fortune! Chinook took my eye because we had known that famous dog of the Antarctic and had once named our boat after him.

We had a delicious buffet supper then said good-bye to all our friends who were going on to Plainfield the next day. Why can you not have your cake and eat it, too? We were due in New York that night. We felt "very down" to say farewell to Mrs. Hires and her daughters and that charming Mrs. Paul duPont, who had travelled with us everywhere and borne the brunt of entertaining us.

In closing I must thank Mrs. John M. Birdsall, one of our newest members who accompanied me, for the assistance that she has given me in preparing this report. Her notes taken in the gardens have been invaluable and made possible the writing of this article.

THE EXHIBITION

■ No more beautiful setting for a flower show could be had than the great Glass Houses at "Longwood" filled with tropical ferns, rare azaleas, orchids, fragrant tropical plants and other rareties too numerous to mention. Not soon will be forgotten the two rows of unusual geraniums extending from the main entrance to the steps leading down to the exhibition floor. When Mr. and Mrs. Pierre S. duPont invited the Garden Club of Wilmington to stage

the Iris Exhibition in the auditorium of the central house for the annual meeting of the Society, its success was assured.

The gardens at Longwood were begun in 1800 by twin brothers, Samuel and Joshua Peirce, grandsons of the original owner, George Peirce, who gave the name "Evergreen Glade" to this estate at the time of its purchase, about 1700. These brothers were grand-nephews of Humphrey Marshall, who created his beautiful arboretum at Marshallton in the Brandywine Hills within the forks of the beautiful Brandywine. He in turn was undoubtedly influenced through his cousin, John Bartram, the creator of the famous Bartram's Gardens, now in the heart of Philadelphia but in Colonial times far out in Penn's green woods on the banks of the Schuylkill. When Mr. duPont bought the property great care was used in its development that the charm of the old gardens might be retained, while the newer plantings are in keeping with the original plan. The original house, which was built in 1720, has been retained, a duplicate of it was built nearby and the two connected by a glass enclosed court in which flowering plants bloom away the hours to the music of the central fountain. Spacious green lawns, each enclosed with towering trees to form green rooms, and many gardens, each a jewel in its particular setting, enclose the house and green houses.

Close by the house are the many glass houses, each connected, and all leading to the central conservatory which contains the great pipe-organ and auditorium. Facing these houses and separated from them by a wide terrace, and still wider court, which drops precipitously away from the terrace with its balustrade, are the electrically controlled and lighted fountains, probably the largest group of this type in the country. This is one of three sets of fountains on the estate, the others being the ones to be viewed only by daylight in the Water Garden and those on the stage of the theatre. Any variation of color may be obtained by the operator, from red, blue, green, yellow and white to the softest pastel shades, and the jets may be seen in many forms from filmy mist to great columns shooting skyward as high as 135 feet. Two weeks after the meeting of the Iris Society Mr. and Mrs. duPont were hosts to guests attending the National Conference on State Parks and the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Parks Association during one of the evening session. For an hour the fountains sent their spray

toward the dark sky, soft mist giving place to increasingly great columns wide spreading fans like peacocks' tails and again low, softly moving falls. There must have been more than seventy individual streams in tiers, at times soft blue as of summer clouds, again taking the depth of sapphires; changing to red, to green, to lilac and rose and again combining the colors of the rainbow to give forth exquisite effects as the fan spread slowly wider or closed to form a thin column arching toward the sky, to fall again in muted music. All these colors so lovely and indescribable but the most beautiful the clear yellowish white as the spray fell from the towering jets to rest softly against the dark green evergreens in the background giving a frosted appearance to the needles as though tipped with sparkling ice. How I wished that our members who had so enjoyed the other fountains might have had the privilege of seeing these.

Too much credit cannot be given Mrs. Higgins and her committee not only for the beautiful staging of the show but for the *promptness* with which it was accomplished. Twelve o'clock was the hour set for the exhibits to be in place ready for the judging, and at twelve o'clock it was ready, each entry in place, although it was not until one-thirty that the judges were expected. This same efficiency prevailed throughout the two days of the meeting, every detail having been most carefully worked out. Sub-committees had been formed to handle the staging, publicity, schedule, hospitality, transportation, registration, prizes, posters, luncheon for the judges. Hostesses for the meeting were Mesdames Pierre duPont, R. R. M. Carpenter, Irenée duPont, Ellen Meeds, William C. Spruance, Francis Crowninshield, A. Felix duPont and W. K. duPont.

It was in the central house that the exhibition was held. The long tiered tables were placed in the central court several feet below the surrounding gallery level where chairs had been arranged that the visitors might rest and enjoy the beauty of the flowers while listening to the music. These tables had been given a coating of silver paint, a most effective covering. Last year this club staged their show at "Goodstay," Mrs. Ellen duPont Meeds' charming home. The morning of the show she had the walls sprayed with silver radiator paint, a lovely background for the irises, especially for the darker brilliant varieties. The containers used are quite

refreshing to the eye after the stereotyped milk bottles. They are glass bottles, yes, but of distinctive shape being flatish on two sides, with a snail design embossed on each. Cool looking and well balanced, they are quite unusual.

While not so large an exhibition as we have seen at some centers of iris interest the quality of the exhibits was exceptionally fine and the staging so arranged there was ample space for each exhibit without crowding. There were five classes each sub-divided carefully for type or color. These classes, winning entries and exhibitors follow :

Class I. Beardless Irises

Exhibitor

A. Spurias—no entries.

B. Siberian—

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1st Kingfisher | Mrs. Ellen duPont Meeds |
| 2nd Ceasar | Mrs. Ireneé duPont |
| 3rd True Blue and Ceasar..... | Mrs. Arthur Hoyt Scott |

C. Crested—

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1st <i>gracilipes</i> | Mrs. Ireneé duPont |
| 2nd <i>tectorum alba</i> | Mrs. Isaac La Boiteaux |
| 3rd <i>tectorum</i> | Mrs. W. C. Spruance |

D. Crested—

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1st <i>tectorum</i> | Mrs. Ireneé duPont |
| 2nd No award. | |
| 3rd <i>Tectorum alba</i> | Mrs. H. L. Lindquist |

E. Species—American—

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st <i>versicolor</i> | Miss Anne Burton Hazzard |
| 2nd <i>versicolor</i> | Mrs. W. S. Corkran |

F. Species—European—

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1st <i>pseudacorus</i> | Mrs. F. H. Clymer |
| 2nd <i>sisyrinchium</i> | Mrs. W. S. Corkran |
| 3rd <i>pseudacorus</i> | Mrs. Ellen duPont Meeds |

G. Beardless—Hybrids—No entries.

H. Any other species (wild)—

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1st <i>prismatica</i> | Mrs. W. S. Corkran |
| 2nd <i>versicolor</i> | Mrs. William Hilles |

Class II. Bearded Irises—one specimen stalk

A. White—

- 1st GudrunMrs. W. S. Carpenter, Jr.
- 2nd WambliskaMrs. Donald P. Ross
- 3rd GudrunMrs. Ireneé duPont

B. Plicata—

- 1st Los AngelesMrs. Pierre S. duPont
- 2nd Los AngelesMr. H. F. duPont
- 3rd San Francisco.....Mrs. Donald P. Ross

C. Self-colored, lavender, blue or purple—

- 1st MeldoricMrs. Ireneé duPont
- 2nd ElegyMrs. Donald P. Ross
- 3rd Souv. de Loetitia

MichaudMrs. William S. Carpenter

D. Self-colored, yellow—

- 1st California GoldMrs. Elwyn Evans
- 2nd W. R. Dykes.....Mrs. Donald P. Ross
- 3rd W. R. Dykes.....Mrs. William S. Carpenter

E. Bi-color, lavender, blue or purple—

- 1st ValorMrs. E. duPont Meeds
- 2nd LegendMrs. T. S. Smith
- 3rd LegendMrs. Willard Young

F. Standards white; falls various colors—

- 1st Yves LassaillyMrs. E. duPont Meeds
- 2nd Yves LassaillyMrs. Donald P. Ross
- 3rd RheintochterMrs. Ireneé duPont

G. Standards yellow; falls various colors—

- 1st CameliardMrs. Donald P. Ross
- 2nd Henri Rivière.....Mrs. E. duPont Meeds
- 3rd Gold TopMrs. Ireneé duPont

H. Red—

- 1st DauntlessMrs. F. H. Clymer
- 2nd DauntlessMrs. Donald P. Ross
- 3rd DauntlessMrs. Harry G. Haskell

I. Pink or lilac—

- 1st Pink SatinMrs. Donald P. Ross
- 2nd Frieda Mohr.....Mrs. Ireneé duPont
- 3rd Elizabeth EgelbergMrs. E. duPont Meeds

J. Blended—

- 1st Euphony Mrs. A. H. Scott
- 2nd K. V. Ayres Mrs. E. duPont Meeds
- 3rd Vishnu Mr. H. F. duPont

K. Brown or black—

- 1st Sachem Mrs. F. G. Tallman
- 2nd Sachem Mrs. Donald P. Ross
- 3rd Indian Chief Mrs. W. S. Carpenter, Jr.

Class III. Bearded Irises

A. Collection of 9 distinct varieties—

- 1st Souv. de Loetitia Michaud, Natividad, Frieda Mohr,
Rosy Asia, Député Nomblot, Alta California, Valor,
Rameses, Alameda.

—Mrs. Ireneé duPont.

- 2nd Wambliska, Congo, Député Nomblot, Pluie d'Or, Cap-
tain Courageous, Cantilène, Sir Michael, Crown Jewel,
W. R. Dykes.

—Mrs. Donald P. Ross.

- 3rd Député Nomblot, Coralie, Chromylla, Los Angeles,
Rhadi, Farandole, Elizabeth Egelberg, Rhea, Largo.

—Mrs. E. duPont Meeds.

B. Collection of 6 distinct varieties—

- 1st Mrs. Ireneé duPont.
- 2nd Mr. H. F. duPont.
- 3rd Mrs. Donald P. Ross.

C. Collection of 3 distinct varieties—

- 1st Mrs. E. duPont Meeds.
- 2nd Mrs. Barrie Baxter
- 3rd Mrs. Ireneé duPont.

Unfortunately I do not have the names of the varieties entered in the winning exhibits in B and C.

Mrs. E. duPont Meeds won the Silver Medal of the A. I. S., while the Bronze Medal was awarded to Mrs. Ireneé duPont. The Silver Medal of the Garden Club of America was awarded to Mrs. Walter Carpenter.

Class IV. Intermediates

- 1st Doxa Mrs. Isaac La Boiteaux
- 2nd *Kochii* Mrs. E. duPont Meeds
- 3rd No award.

Class V. Seedlings

Four seedlings shown by Mrs. Ireneé duPont were chosen by the judges to be recommended for Highly Commended Certificates—

- No. 7. A blended white. S. silver-white with a smoky undertone and narrow gold edge; F. smoky white, heavily gold veined haft, wide, deep glowing yellow beard; styles white with yellow edge and crest; the center of the flower a blue-grey with much gold. Stalk widely branched above the center, carrying six flowers, three open at once. Large flowers of Moonlight form; fragrant; heavy substance.
- No. 8. Yellow self. S. primrose yellow, ruffled; F. same clear yellow with deep yellow beard, long, straight hanging; deeper yellow veins in haft. Branching from center; flowers of heavy substance, the standards arched; seven blooms, three open. This is a large, long flower, the falls the type of Magnifica's.
- No. 9. Variegata blend. S. golden-bronze; F. bronze-red with a gold veined haft and edge; narrow, pale yellow beard. A long flower, eight blooms, three open, two branches, the flowers well placed.
- No. 10. Siberian. Large, clear medium blue with a maroon veined haft.

The specimen stalks attested to the skill of the gardeners responsible for their well-being, those of Gudrun being so startlingly tall—37 inches—that when one visitor asked Mrs. Nesmith how they ever could have got it up to that height she said “dynamite.” These men responsible for much of the beauty of this show are:

Fred Annand, gardener for Mrs. Donald P. Ross.
Frederick W. Smith, for Mrs. Ireneé duPont.
J. W. Reynolds, for Mrs. William S. Carpenter.
Frank Briggs, for Mrs. Ellen duPont Meeds.
William Mullins, for Mrs. Pierre S. duPont.

THE NASHVILLE CAMERA CLUB COMPETITION—1937

■ Since the beginning of the Iris Festival movement in Nashville five years ago it has been very difficult to get suitable pictures to portray the beauties of the many gardens and the individual specimens that visitors were privileged to see during Iris Week. Each year the plans for letting every member of the Society and the world at large know about the Festival have been amplified and always there was the question of where to get the pictures. National magazines have begun to take notice of the event and many have asked for information and photographs. So this year the Nashville Iris Association decided to do something about it.

Some of the officers met with the leaders of the Camera club and worked out another feature for 1937. This club has forty members and has made some wonderful exhibits of amateur photography. The Association offered cash awards for the best iris pictures taken during Iris Week and the competition was confined entirely to members of the club. \$25.00 to go to the best, \$15.00 to the second and \$7.50 in iris rhizomes to the third award.

There was no restriction put on these amateurs as to what the subject matter of a picture should be, just so long as it had an iris in it. Pictures could be taken at the A.I.S. Show at the Hermitage Hotel; of any specimen, either in the garden or under artificial light; views of plantings, gardens or specimen clumps; arrangements; posed shots or candid. In short, they were simply told to go to it and shoot anything they thought best. The result was most gratifying; there were over sixty entries and there was not a poor picture in the lot. Some took candid pictures with their "minnies," others made elaborate enlargements and still others set up regular studios in their homes for posed studies.

An interesting attraction to the contestants was the agreement by the Iris Association that all sales from the prints or negatives would be for the sole benefit of the photographer. The Association reserved the right to use any picture entered for publicity purposes but allowed the members of the club to take orders for prints from anyone desiring them. Again, if any pictures were sold to magazines or newspapers the money was to go to the individuals who took the pictures. And in every case the photographer's credit line was to appear when a picture was reproduced.



Dillard Jacobs

*Iris Composition
First Prize*



C. B. Dudley

Chinook (Williams)
Second Prize



L. S. Davis

The Iris Judges—Third Prize

*Left to right—Thomas A. Williams, Dr. Franklin Cook, Mr. and
Mrs. Charles G. Whiting.
Iris La Feria (Williams)*

The judges were from the daily papers and from the advertising agency that handles the publicity each year for the Festival. After hours of study they chose the three winners that are reproduced in this issue of the BULLETIN. There were so many meritorious entries that they voluntarily selected twelve more for Honorable Mention. All of these were prominently displayed for a week in an uptown show-window.

This plan will be continued next year and if you visit Nashville during the second week in May you may expect to be "shot at" from almost any angle.

T. A. WILLIAMS.

OUR MEMBERS WRITE

July 29, 1937.

Mr. B. Y. Morrison, Secretary,
American Iris Society,
821 Washington Loan & Trust Bldg.,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. MORRISON :

It would be helpful if there were an analysis or report upon the foliage of all the iris except the very new, the expensive and the exhibition varieties. Iris are used extensively for landscape purposes. The foliage of different varieties varies greatly, ranging from the clean, clear, vigorous leaf, free from speck or decay, to those which are often an eyesore with tips fading and yellowing; and the whole leaf more or less becomes not an attraction for but a detriment to the grounds. The appearance of the foliage is important for some three months or more apart from the blooming season.

Apparently there is a great difference in the susceptibility of foliage to attack of leaf spots, etc. I have two adjoining large clumps of which one appears entirely free from disease while the other is becoming a disfiguring sight. The latter kind I am trying to eliminate. No catalogs have given information in this important particular, though I think they should.

It does not help the iris cause to have purchasers find that the iris they have bought turn out to be not a thing of beauty after they have bloomed but something to be discarded.

Won't you secure for the BULLETIN an article on this topic by someone who has access to or knows all the best common varieties and can group them in perhaps three classes as to their freedom from or lack of susceptibility to leaf disease?

Such an article would certainly be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT T. PAINE.

FALL-BLOOMING IRIS

In a letter to President Everett, Mr. Clint McDade has written that the prospects for a good season with fall-blooming iris is in prospect. He invites all who are interested to visit his garden and see for themselves.

Here is an opportunity that should not be missed and an invitation that is much appreciated by your officers. If you go, remember that the editors are always greedy for reports.

RIDGWAY COLOR CHARTS

The Ridgway Color Standards and Nomenclature is again available and may be ordered at a reduced rate through the Secretary's Office, 821 Washington Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C. A reduction will be given on orders placed this way, but in order to know what can be done, the Secretary should like to have some indication how many persons will order. The price will be in the neighborhood of twenty dollars.

B. Y. M.

REPORT OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

AWARDS OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY FOR 1937

DYKES MEDAL

<i>Variety</i>	<i>Originator</i>
Missouri	Grinter
<i>Second Choice</i>	
California Gold	Mitchell

AWARD OF MERIT

American Varieties

Copper Lustre	Kirkland
Snow King	H. P. Sass
Junaluska	Kirkland
Naranja	Mitchell
California Gold	Mitchell
Happy Days	Mitchell
Brunhilde	Salbach
Jasmania	Ayres
Mohrson (Hybrid)	White
Eleanor Roosevelt (Fall Blooming)	H. P. Sass

AWARD OF MERIT

Foreign Varieties

Shah Jehan	Neel
Alice Harding	Cayeux
Golden Hind	Chadburn
Director Pinelle	Cayeux
Seduction	Cayeux

HONORABLE MENTION

Tall Bearded

<i>Variety</i>	<i>Originator</i>
Anitra	H. P. Sass
Arethusa	Gage
Attye Eugenia	Snow
Cafe Au Lait	Graham
Casque d'or	J. Sass
City of Lincoln	H. P. Sass
Copper Crystal	Washington
Deseret	Thorup
Dymia	Shuber
Eilah	Loomis
Exclusive	Grant
Far West	Kleinsorge
Garden Magic	Grinter
Golden Bear	Mitchell
Janet Butler	McKee
Jelloway	Parker
Lighthouse	Salbach
Manchu Prince	Washington
Marco Polo	Schreiner
Midwest Gem	H. P. Sass
Michelangelo	Weed
Morocco Rose	Loomis
Orloof	H. P. Sass
Prairie Sunset	H. P. Sass
Sable	P. Cook
Sir Launcelot	J. Sass
Snow Belle	McKee
Spring Prom	D. F. Hall
Wabash	Williamson
Waverly	Williams

HONORABLE MENTION

Intermediate

Selerno	Washington
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HIGHLY COMMENDED

Ilsa Louise	Smith
Seedling No. 36-21	Hall
Burnished Gold	Kirkland
Seedling 1-B-37	Wilhelm

August 12, 1937

W. J. McKEE, *Chairman*,
 B. Y. MORRISON,
Secretary, A. I. S.

COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY

All of the dealers listed below are members of The American Iris Society. If you are buying iris for your garden, it should be your particular pleasure to make your purchases from the dealers who have worked with and supported your society. Your officers and directors invite your particular attention to this list. They also ask a favor. When you order, tell the dealer you saw his name in the BULLETIN and do him a favor by not asking for a catalog unless you mean business.

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The American Rose Annual, sent to each member every year, describes all the new roses and is packed with information and inspiration for rose growers.

The American Rose Quarterly deals with current exhibitions, meetings, rose pilgrimages, roster of members, etc.

"What Every Rose Grower Should Know," the Society's book of instructions for rose-growing, is sent to each member.

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Harrisburg, Penna.

SPECIAL NOTICE

UNTIL the preset issue of the New Peony Manual is exhausted the Directors of the American Peony Society have reduced the price to \$3.15, delivered. This is a reduction of 50% from former price and was prompted to meet present conditions and make it possible for every garden lover to obtain a copy, which at present price is below cost of production.

This manual is the greatest book of its kind and will prove of great value to any peony admirer. Membership in the American Peony Society, four splendid bulletins, together with the peony manual for \$6.00.

Act quick if you desire a manual as at this low price we expect to soon dispose of the balance of books on hand. Address all communications and remittances to:

W. F. Christman, Secretary,
American Peony Society,
Northbrook, Ill.

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The 1935 and 1936 Daffodil Yearbooks went to many members of The American Iris Society and it is hoped that the 1937 issue will go to even more, since narcissus make a wonderful picture before the iris fill the garden. If you have not discovered this, try them. The 1937 Yearbook is of great value and sells for the ridiculously low price of fifty cents. Some copies of the 1936 issue are still available. Give yourself a treat and order both. Send your remittance to the Secretary, American Horticultural Society, 821 Washington Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

It has been called to our attention that there is a chance that someone who is not a member of the A. I. S. may read your copy of the BULLETIN and wonder how he too may become a subscriber. If you happen to be such a reader, let us assure you that the Society welcomes to membership all persons who feel that special knowledge of iris would be welcome in their gardening.

Membership is by the CALENDAR year. Annual Membership is three dollars; Triennial Membership is eight dollars and fifty cents; Life Membership is fifty dollars.

Make your check or money order payable to the American Iris Society and send to Mr. B. Y. Morrison, Secretary, 821 Washington Loan & Trust Building, Washington, D. C. Please follow the instruction. It will help us all in the record keeping.

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